

**Comments on Feb. 4, 2026 Draft Mining Ordinance
for the Town of Alna, Maine
Submitted by Karen Rose on Feb. 18, 2026**

Article III. Sec. 2(E): [Conforming Amendment]

Change “Mining operations with a working pit of more than five (5) acres”

To: “Mining operations with a working pit of more than **one-half (1/2)** acre”.

Article IV. Sec. 1(A)(5): [Conforming Amendment]

Divide Sec. 5 into two subsections (a) and (b) (see Art. IV, § 2(A)(6)(a)-(b)) and amend:

- a. A statement signed under oath or affirmation that the bedrock quarrying or mining operation (i) was not abandoned prior to the date of applicability and (ii) has not been unlawfully expanded from the date of applicability to the time of filing of the registration application, accompanied by supporting documentation, such as a copy of an annual report to a permitting or governmental authority any time in the year immediately preceding the date of applicability. For mining operations that are not subject to any state or municipal permitting or reporting requirements, registrants shall submit a **signed** statement **signed under oath or affirmation** identifying the last date of any mining activity and describing the frequency of use under which they have operated, **and which may be reviewed or further inspected by the CEO or a designated Planning Board Member.**
- b. For purposes of this Article IV(1), “unlawful expansion” means an enlargement of the aggregate disturbed surface area of land by more than one (1) acre, except that any reclaimed land shall be subtracted from the aggregate disturbed surface area.

Article IV. Sec. 1(A)(7): [Clarifying Amendment]

Clarify that all initial registration applications must include precise baseline specifications:

For bedrock quarrying and mining operations that do not possess a permit delineating the boundaries of the affected land, current photographs together with hand-drawn depictions of all affected land, as of the date of applicability, on a Town tax map, **and must include detailed and precise acreage of all operations included in the site plan.**

Article IV. Sec. 1(B): [Clarifying Amendment]

Clarify throughout this section that all local land use permitting authority is to be conveyed to the CEO or a designated Planning Board Member.

Article VI. Sec. 1(C): [Conforming Amendment]

Clarify that mining and quarrying weekday hours of operation are the same:

The hours of operation for mining operations shall **not be earlier than 8:00 AM and not later than 5:00 PM** Monday through Friday and **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM** on Saturdays.

Article VI. Sec. 3(C): [Procedural Challenge]

Strike this entire section.

Article VII. Sec. 1(B)(4): [New Provision]

Add new provision requiring permitted operators to inform the CEO of any intention to expand in an affected land area:

Pre-Expansion Inspection. Before expanding a permitted quarrying or mining operation on affected land of one-half (1/2) acre as provided in Article V, and before each additional expansion, the operator shall notify the CEO of intent to request an inspection. The CEO shall respond to inspection requests within 30 days and shall inspect the site within 60 days to determine the operator's compliance with this ordinance and other applicable laws administered by the CEO. The CEO may defer inspections for a reasonable period if conditions at the site prevent such inspection, and the CEO shall notify the operator of the deferral. Site operations may continue after the notice of intent to expand has been filed, and failure of the CEO to conduct a site visit within the specified time is not sufficient basis to restrict operations.