



PROBLEM

An international industrial client is seeking large supplies of high quality aggregates for shipment on the Great Lakes Waterway to markets in Ontario and the United States. An inventory of all potential bedrock and surficial resources, well-positioned with respect to navigable inland shipping passages, is required.

APPROACH

The project approach was driven by the geological and transport constraints set by the client. Available geological information for the study area was gathered to identify areas where large supplies of high quality materials exist. This information was coupled with an analysis of several screening factors, including the capability for marine transport. Candidate sites satisfying the preliminary screening criteria were assessed during a field reconnaissance survey. The assessments documented location, specific rock or deposit type and characteristics, exposure, estimated quantities, transport factors, and sterilizing factors.

RESULTS

A report was submitted to the client summarizing the study findings. Eighteen candidate sites were assessed and prioritized using a systematic procedure. Two bedrock sites and one sand and gravel site were assigned top priority. The client subsequently was able to focus attention on these sites for potential acquisition.