The object of this study is to identify and profile alternative sources in Alaska that contain materials potentially suitable for hard aggregate production. The general definition of Hard Aggregate for the purposes of this study is: aggregates meeting or exceeding the Nordic Abrasion Ball Mill Specification for Class II, i.e. Nordic Abrasion test value is less than or equal to 10. The study relies primarily on geologic interpretation. R&M Consultants, Inc. (R&M) used collected expertise and available resources to identify prospects for development of hard aggregate sources.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is investigating the opportunity to supply hard aggregate for paving projects throughout southcentral Alaska, which would increase the life of road surfaces. Currently there are two out-of-state sources for hard aggregate that can ship (via barge) material to Alaska when specified for a project. DOT&PF is interested in supplementing these sources with an in-state site near Cantwell, if such a site can be developed economically within the near future. This report presents an economic analysis of producing aggregate from Cantwell versus the out-of-state sources.