Nick King
SalmoGen Company, Inc.
33 Salmon Farm Road
Franklin, ME 04634
nickking@salmogencompany.com

Town of Franklin
Planning Board
34 Main Street
Franklin, ME 04634

February 3, 2026

Dear Members of the Franklin Planning Board,

I am writing to provide comments regarding the application by TC Gravel to conduct quarrying, blasting, and gravel-making operations on Lot #19, tax map 2, located approximately 0.75 miles from the CCAR and the adjoining USDA ARS National Cold Water Marine Aquaculture Center (NCWMAC).

SalmoGen Company is an Atlantic salmon breeding company located on the campus of CCAR where we currently maintain over 12,000 high-value Atlantic salmon broodstock. Some of these fish are 4 years old and will be spawning for us later this year.

Holding and caring for live salmon depends on maintaining stable and carefully controlled environmental conditions to ensure fish health, welfare, and reproductive viability. Blasting activities associated with rock quarrying can introduce significant risks to our operations. Ground vibration, underwater shock waves, and sudden acoustic disturbances have been shown to stress fish, disrupt feeding and growth patterns, and, in some cases, cause physical injury or increased mortality. Intermittent, acute stress anytime during the 14months leading to spawning will disrupt the maturation cycle for our broodstock and negatively impact success of egg production.

Maine's salmon aquaculture industry represents a significant investment in working waterfronts, local employment, and sustainable food production. SalmoGen, CCAR, and the USDA NCWMAC are important stakeholders to the industry. It is therefore important that land-use decisions carefully consider how quarry blasting operations may affect nearby aquaculture facilities and the broader marine environment. I respectfully urge the Planning Board to require thorough impact assessments, appropriate setback distances, vibration and noise monitoring, and operational limitations to minimize potential harm to live salmon operations in the area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments. I appreciate the Board's efforts to balance economic development with environmental stewardship and the protection of existing aquaculture businesses in Franklin.

Sincerely,

Nick King

General Manager

SalmoGen Company, Inc.