

McInnis Cement to use the railway more than initially planned

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PORT DANIEL: - McInnis Cement has already reached an agreement with a client to ship cement by rail from New Richmond. Considering that the line was put in a dormant state east of Caplan by the Quebec Department of Transport, cement will need to be transported by truck between the Port Daniel plant and

New Richmond.

The first customer to take delivery of cement by rail has signed a contract calling for 28,000 tonnes per year for five years, for a total of 140,000 tonnes. A volume of 28,000 tonnes translates into 300 carloads.

However, McInnis Cement spokesperson, Maryse Tremblay, says that if the railway serves the Port

Daniel plant directly, “the company’s increment could be substantial. We would ship a lot of output by rail. It would open some markets,” she says.

In 2014, McInnis Cement was expecting very little or none of its production to be sent out by rail. Up to 95% of the output was slated for marine transport. In 2016, a 5% portion, or 110,000 tonnes

over a total output of 2.2 million tonnes, was expected to be shipped out by land, either by rail or by trucks. That portion could reach 10% now.

“We have left more room for rail especially if the line which passes very close to our plant is in working order. Certain destinations are more advantageous to be served by rail than by ships,” says Ms. Tremblay.