

Aggregate train traffic to ramp up until August 8

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NOUVELLE – Luc Lévesque, director general of the Société du chemin de fer de la Gaspésie (SCFG), says that the aggregate traffic between the Nouvelle quarry and Maria is currently reaching its optimal pace, which should be attained by August 8, and maybe a couple of days before.

As of July 31, SCFG crews were making four to five trips per day. Three or four of those return trips were carried out with seven air dump cars, while the 23 hoppers acquired by the SCFG were used once a day.

“The contractor’s conveyor’s capacity was not able to keep up with the pace. It had to be adjusted and we also had to adapt to the hop-



Photo: G. Gagné

The SCFG hoppers are making two daily trips between Nouvelle and Maria since August 5. They are loaded at a siding called Leclerc, where limestone was exploited until the mid-1980s.

pers’ slower unloading process. The quarry’s truck loading also had to be sped up and it is fixed now. By Tuesday (August 5), we

should be able to use seven trains daily, as five return trips using air dump cars and two trips using the 23 hoppers should be in operation

daily”, points out Luc Lévesque.

Around July 18-20, the SCFG team removed the top of the 23 hoppers, initially

built as gravity cars to haul cement.

“The aggregate traffic gives us a good idea of what we can do with those cars. It is a good test. We can find other uses for them in the future,” adds Mr. Lévesque.

The hauling operation between Nouvelle and Maria has to be completed by mid-November, as the contractor in charge of the beach replenishment in Maria, Construction Béluga, must deliver the work before the end of the year.

Each air dump car has a capacity of 80 tons, while a hopper car can carry as much as 100 tons. The total volume of aggregates to be transported will range between 500,000 and 550,000 tons, according to the mayor of Maria, Jean-Claude Landry.