



Habitat Management Division  
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B2Y 4A2

Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Noire référence*

July 30, 2003

Mr. Paul G. Buxton, Project Manager  
Nova Stone Exporters Inc.  
P.O. Box 465  
Bridgewater, N.S.  
B4V 2X6

**DRAFT**

Dear Mr. Buxton:

**RE: Whites Point 3.9 Hectare Quarry Blasting Plan**

Thank you for your letter of July 21, 2003 in which you asked for details of the calculations with respect to set back distances to protect iBoF Atlantic salmon.

As stated in my letter to you of June 11, 2003, the calculations were performed using a computer simulation (I-Blast) model supplied by the developer of the DFO "Guidelines for the Use of Explosives in or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters" – 1998, Mr. Dennis Wright. This simulation model is used regularly by Habitat Management Division to calculate set back distances for blasting.

We have contacted Mr. Wright for advice on the use of the I-Blast model for your application. Mr. Wright is not comfortable with using this model for the blasting plan you have proposed. He is suggesting that you apply the equations used for the guidelines. However because of the presence of endangered species in the area, it is recommended that the set back distance be at least triple that determined by the application of the equations in the guidelines. In addition, Mr. Wright has recommended that you rethink the Blasting Plan for the 3.9 hectare quarry in order to reduce the size of the individual charges being used. If the individual charges could be split or decked, as described in the guidelines, the impact could be further reduced.

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You may wish to redesign the Blasting Plan to include these recommendations. Please also address, as requested in my letter to you of May 29, 2003, DFO's concerns for potential harmful effects to fish and fish habitat from blasting at Whites Point, including the five whale species and porpoise species that have been identified as species at risk. Also, HMD would still like to know the purpose of the blast and the intended use of the rock.

Please be advised that a redesigned blasting plan for the 3.9 hectare quarry could be viewed as part of the larger project, **Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal, Digby County, Nova Scotia**, which is currently undergoing an environment assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (902) 426-4692. Mr. Wright is also available at his office in Winnipeg (204) 983-5204.

Phil Zamora  
Habitat Management Division

cc. M. McLean  
D. McDonald  
T. Wheaton  
C. Myra  
D. Wright  
B. Petrie