
***Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project
Joint Review Panel***

**Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project
Joint Review Panel
Scoping Meeting Procedures**

Background

On November 10, 2004, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Nova Scotia Environment and Labour announced the start of a public comment period on draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines for the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal project. The purpose of the EIS Guidelines is to identify the issues the proponent, Bilcon of Nova Scotia, Corporation, will be required to address in its environmental assessment of the proposed project. The EIS Guidelines will provide direction to the proponent on how to describe and assess these issues, and how to structure the EIS that will be submitted to the joint review panel. The comment period on the draft EIS Guidelines ends on January 21, 2005.

As part of the overall public comment period, the Panel will hold public meetings from January 6-9, 2005, to explain the environmental assessment process and to receive comments on the draft EIS Guidelines.

Prior to and following the public meetings (up to January 21, 2005), comments on the draft EIS Guidelines can be submitted, in the official language of your choice, by mail or e-mail to the following:

Steve Chapman, Panel Manager
Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project - Joint Review Panel
PO Box 486 C.R.O
Halifax NS B3J 2R7
E-mail: Comments@WPQ-JointReview.ca

The draft EIS Guidelines are available on the Web sites of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency or Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (www.gov.ns.ca/enla/eis/ca).

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel

Copies of the draft EIS Guidelines can be obtained from the following centres:

Annapolis Royal Branch
Library
Town Hall
285 St. George St.
Annapolis Royal, NS

Nova Scotia Environment
and Labour
5151 Terminal Rd., 5th
floor
Halifax, NS

Nova Scotia Environment
and Labour
Yarmouth District Office
13 First St.
Yarmouth, NS

Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency
1801 Hollis St., Suite 200
Halifax, NS

Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial
Library
84 Warwick St.
Digby, NS

Clean Nova Scotia
126 Portland Street
Dartmouth, NS

Ecology Action Centre
Suite 31
1568 Argyle St.
Halifax, NS

PURPOSE

This document outlines procedures for the public scoping meetings that will be conducted by the Joint Review Panel for the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project. These procedures are intended to ensure that the scoping meetings will take place in a fair and equitable manner, with maximum cooperation and courtesy. The Panel will maintain order and efficiency in a structured but informal atmosphere.

The chairperson has the discretion to modify or waive specific procedures if there are strong reasons why the objectives of the scoping meetings can be better achieved by taking a different approach.

PROCEDURES

1.0 Scheduling of Scoping Meetings

The Panel is holding public meetings at the following locations in order to provide maximum accessibility to interested persons:

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel

January 6: Digby Neck Consolidated School, Sandy Cove, 7:00p.m - 10:00p.m.

January 7: Digby Regional High School (cafeteria), Digby, 7:00p.m - 10:00p.m.

January 8: Horton High School (cafeteria), Wolfville, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

January 9: Meteghan Fire Hall, Meteghan, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

2.0 Oral Presentations

Persons may present their views orally or in written form. Both forms of submission will be considered equally. The following guidelines are provided for persons making oral presentations during the scoping meetings:

- Persons who register prior to the scoping meetings will be included on a list of registered presenters. Participants pre-registered for a particular session will be given priority for presenting. To pre-register for a session, please call Steve Chapman at 613-957-0294 (call collect).
- A schedule listing the order of participants will be provided to members of the public prior to each session.
- Persons who wish to make a presentation but have not pre-registered may register prior to the start of a session or during the intermission. However, the opportunity to make a presentation will depend on the time remaining after the pre-registered participants have been heard.
- Individuals are allowed to make only one ten (10) minute presentation to the Panel.
- Individuals representing organizations will be allowed to each make only one fifteen (15) minute presentation to the Panel.
- More than one individual may participate in a single presentation. When a presentation includes several persons, the collective presentation must take place within the time allotted for that presentation.
- Any exceptional presentations will be limited to the time set by the Panel.
- The Chairperson may terminate presentations that exceed the allocated time.
- The Panel requests that participants make their presentations in a tone and style that is courteous and respectful. Clarity and brevity are encouraged.
- The Panel encourages presenters to set aside the final few minutes of their allocated time period for questions by the Panel or other participants.

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel

- The Panel may limit presentations that fall outside of either the purpose of the scoping meetings or the Panel's mandate, or that are needlessly repetitive, irrelevant or immaterial.
- An overhead projector and flip chart will be available for those presenters who wish to complement their oral presentations with visual aids.
- Persons who have text to accompany their oral presentations are encouraged to provide a copy to the Panel.

The order of presentations for each session will be as follows:

- The Panel will begin with an opening statement.
- Participants who have pre-registered will be next to address the Panel. Each participant's presentation will be followed by a short question and answer period.
- If sufficient time remains, then those who registered just prior to or during the session will have the opportunity to address the Panel. Participants registering at the door should limit their presentation to a maximum of ten (10) minutes.
- The Panel will conclude each session with closing remarks.

3.0 Questioning

The Panel requests that participants pose their questions in a tone and style that are courteous to, and respectful of, others. Clarity and brevity are encouraged.

The order of questioning will be determined by the chairperson but typically will be: the Panel, participants, and any/all government agencies. Panel members may ask questions at anytime during the session. The following points provide general guidelines for questioning during the public scoping meetings:

- All questions and comments shall be directed through the chairperson who will invite the appropriate participant to respond.
- The chairperson may limit or exclude questions or comments that fall outside the purpose of the scoping meetings or the mandate of the Panel, or are needlessly repetitive, irrelevant, or immaterial.
- The chairperson may also limit questions in order to adhere to stated time limits.

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel

4.0 Written Presentations

The Panel would appreciate a copy of any written material brought by individuals for their presentation. This could include the written presentation, an outline of the presentation, a copy of supporting documents, etc.)

All members of the public are welcome to attend the scoping meetings to listen to the presentations or to address questions to the presenters. . The Panel will accept written submissions from any member of the public at any time throughout the scoping session process.

All materials received and presented will be placed on the public registry and made available at the following locations:

Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library
84 Warwick Street
Digby, NS

Nova Scotia Environment and Labour
5151 Terminal Rd., 5th floor
Halifax, NS

5.0 Transcripts

Written transcripts will be provided of all scoping sessions, and will be made available within a reasonable period through the public registry.

6.0 Informal Nature of Scoping Meetings

The Panel encourages groups and individuals to speak and interact at these meetings on their own behalf, rather than through a lawyer. The scoping meetings will be informal and should not be viewed as courtroom proceedings.

7.0 Interpretation

Accommodation for French-English translation can be made available for these public meetings by contacting Steve Chapman (613-957-0294, call collect) prior to December 20, 2004.

8.0 Media

Media are entitled to attend the scoping meetings and to sit in the public seating area. No questions, filming, taping or photographs will be allowed in the meeting rooms unless there is prior approval from the panel chair. No media interviews or reporting will be allowed in the rooms where the scoping meetings are taking place.

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel