



Ms Debra Myles, Panel Manager  
Joint Review Panel  
White Point Quarry & Marine Terminal  
160 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0H3

Dear Ms Myles

My name is David Reside, retired engineer, Nova Scotian by birth, and living on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

I will not be able to attend the public hearings scheduled for the last two weeks in June, but I would nevertheless like to submit this letter for your consideration. My position is that I am vehemently and categorically opposed this quarry project.

Although I have been living in BC since 1981, I retain a very strong bond with my home province Nova Scotia. When I recently heard through the Council of Canadians about the Digby Neck quarry I couldn't believe this could be happening. When I was growing up in Yarmouth County in the 50's, Sandy Cove was where we spent our family vacations every year. After I left Acadia in 1960 to work in Ontario, I would return occasionally, but my mother and her sisters continued to visit "the Cove" every summer. Although our family's attachment to this unique and charming part of the world goes back generations, our story is not uncommon.

#### Nova Scotia's Unique Attractiveness

NS certainly has its share of unique attractions for people who want to experience the kind of quiet old world charm that is becoming rare as development slowly encroaches of what is left of an old way of life, so much valued by those who get trapped by our modern world. For example, there is the Cabot Trail, Peggy's Cove, the small towns and villages of the South Shore Lighthouse Trail, and all up the Annapolis Valley. I've seen them all. But Digby Neck, particularly I think the area around Sandy Cove and Little River, is the epitome of all that NS has to offer to anyone who seeks to get off the beaten path. It is quiet, peaceful, almost idyllic, with a small population of resident fishermen who make their living from the waters of the Bay of Fundy, as their families have done for centuries before them. Theirs' is a way of life which is worth preserving. And absolutely no one wants it any other way. Except of course for a group of businessmen for whom the only real value is the bottom line, and every other consideration is secondary.

#### Large Project

This basalt quarry is not a small project. ....40,000 tons per year for 50 years, and will leave scars and marine damage that will last a very long time. And the worst is yet to come, because the NAFTA rules (the infamous chapter 11) would allow possibly the

whole North Mountain to be eventually crushed up and shipped south, where there is apparently an insatiable market for basalt. The proponent will be the benefactor. The countryside and way of life will be decimated, not to mention the loss of tourist income for NS, and severe damage to its reputation as a rewarding place to visit.

### Coastal Protection Policy

As a panel, you've probably heard most of this stuff before. So, what weight do you put on all the stories the fishermen have told you? What possible good can come from the quarry operation, and others like it as other Bilcons get into the action. Jobs for the next 50 years? Right. Just like the Hantsport gypsum mine, the Sydney steel mill, and the proposed open pit strip mine in Cape Breton. What do you think would happen to the peace and quiet of the Neck? Or is that important. Consider what The Sustainable Planning Branch, New Brunswick Department of the Environment has to say. Their publication "A Coastal Areas Protection Policy for New Brunswick", says a great deal about what is important to NB, and why, and what should be the guiding policy for NB law makers. If my few words are getting lost amidst all the other presentations and letters, I suggest you read this NB initiative (summarized on the internet). It is designed to prevent unfair, unwanted, and unethical exploitation by protecting against inappropriate use of NB's coastal areas. They say that the coastal areas of NB are important to the people, in every walk of life, and what threatens the people's livelihood and way of life will not be tolerated.

I am told that NS does not have a coastal protection policy, which is beyond my comprehension. It's also true that BC doesn't have a coastal policy, which is not entirely surprising considering the right wing attitudes that currently prevail in Alberta and British Columbia.

### Economics

The economics are favourable to the proponents, not to the people, and not to the Nova Scotia government. The people and the gov't would be better off financially, in the long run, if this and other similar projects would be killed before they take root.

### Progress

The people who are opposed to this project are not against progress. They simply have a different definition of progress.

### Public Resistance

If this project is approved, then be mindful of what happens each time similarly unpopular projects are allowed to proceed. The people whose lives and livelihoods are being trampled on will not quietly lie down and let the Bilcons of the world roll over them. The history of public resistance to unpopular projects like this is well documented.

### No Compromise

There can be no compromise solution here. Bilcon has absolutely no business putting their own profit ahead of the life and livelihood of each family living on the Neck, and ahead of the health and well being of the nearby marine environment, upon which so many depend. Both sides in this debate can't win. The people who are in positions of power must decide in favour of the people who aren't. Anything else would be a monstrous travesty of justice.

### Sustainable Development

The people of the Neck are in favour of sustainable development. "Development" to them implies an activity which results in an improvement in their lives, and a benefit to the visitors who come to share their joy. "Sustainable" means an activity that can be kept up literally forever without harmful consequences. This quarry project is the exact opposite.

### Democracy

Democracy means public input to public policy. In a real democratic system, the people have a say in what happens to them. They can have access to the facts on both sides, unconstrained by any party. Thus they are more able to recognize propaganda (brainwashing) wherever it comes from, and have the freedom to ultimately exercise their choice in a meaningful way. Otherwise marketing ploys and tactics, which would have the people believing that this quarry is a good thing, could be effective against an unsuspecting population. To counter this, the Stop The Quarry Support Group was formed to gather facts and information, and to educate and inform the public and all levels of government of the real consequences, and to stand up for the people's rights. Listen then to what the people say, and respect their rights as Canadian citizens to resist exploitation.

### Conclusion

Stop this insanity before a single shovel of crushed rock is shipped. Bilcon, or any other company, American or Canadian, has no right to ignore the wishes of the people. The people of the Neck have spoken. Listen to them.

Yours truly

David Reside