



**MINING ASSOCIATION  
of NOVA SCOTIA**

November 19, 2007  
Premier Rodney MacDonald

Dear Mr. Premier:

I am writing today on behalf of the Mining Association of Nova Scotia (MANS) with regard to the recently released Report from the Joint Review Panel for the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project.

As you know, MANS believes that the environmental assessment process that the proponent had to undergo for this project was the wrong tool to evaluate a project of this size and scope. We are reminding you that this report is but one document in a very long stream of documents relating to the project which, of course, includes Bilcon's registration documents. We maintain that the Fournier report is incomplete in many areas, flawed in the scope of its recommendations and indeed in error on many technical points.

We ask that the Government of Nova Scotia take the time required to further study all documents related to this project and clarify any and all issues that remain outstanding at this time. Surely, for the economic good of not only Digby Neck and the Islands but also of the Province of Nova Scotia, a decision on such a proposal would not be based on one controversial report?

As well, MANS would encourage you as Premier and your Cabinet Colleagues to take control in making this decision. We do not ask this lightly but since we have not been given an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Environment and Labour on this matter, we feel quite strongly that all Cabinet members should be involved in the discussion and decision. MANS believes that all Ministers of the Crown should be willing to meet with Nova Scotians on any matter in the same way we would be expected to have our door open to discuss issues of concern to communities and NGOs as well as politicians and bureaucrats. Our being shut out of discussions with the Minister of Environment and Labour since the Fournier report was released is not acceptable.

While we know and understand that the scope of the project falls to the Minister of Environment and Labour to assess, we believe that the decision you will make on this issue will affect our industry in a significant way, thereby having a major impact on the economy of our province. Your leadership is required on this matter and we are asking that your team be part of any decision you make.

Thank you for your time on this matter and we look forward to your timely response.

Yours respectfully,  
Gordon Dickie  
President

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