



Habitat Management Division
P.O. Box 1006
Dartmouth, NS
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DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT

DEC 13 2002

YARMOUTH DISTRICT
OFFICE
YARMOUTH, N.S.

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

December 11, 2002

Mr. R. Petrie
District Manager - Yarmouth
Department of Environment and Labour
13 First Street
Yarmouth NS
B5A 2S9

Dear Mr. Petrie:

Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, Habitat Management Division (DFO-HMD) has reviewed the Whites Cove Blasting Plan submitted by Nova Stone Exporters Inc. dated November 18, 2002.

The information provided is inadequate to give DFO-HMD a sufficient level of confidence that fish, marine mammals, and fish habitat will be adequately protected from the effects of blasting operations at the Whites Cove quarry.

It is important the proponent understands that the mathematical formulas in the Blasting Guidelines are not designed to give extremely high precision to calculated criteria, but rather provide the framework for a more detailed analysis. For instance, the exact location of the shot site in relation to the water column is not considered. This fact needs to be addressed and makes it all the more important that the proponent ensures a conservative approach with adequate mitigation of the effects of the blast and monitoring to ensure that the mitigation is effective.

It was not possible to ascertain from the documentation submitted if the blasting plan is relevant to the initial blast only (which is described in some detail), or is to be considered a blanket document covering all aspects of subsequent blasting operations at the quarry. Some portions of the plan seem to indicate it applies only to the initial blast; other portions give the impression it is to be considered a blanket plan. DFO-HMD requires clarification of the intent prior to completing our review.

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Canada



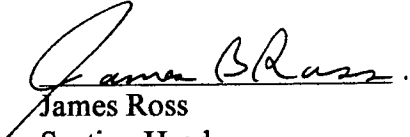
Bob Petrie

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More specific comments on the blasting plan are contained in the table following. Once the requested information is received, DFO-HMD will re-consider the blasting plan in light of all the additional information.

Sincerely,


James Ross
Section Head
Habitat Management Division

Attachment

cc: T. Wheaton