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Fisheries and Oceans,
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Mar. 28th 2003

Attention: Mr. Phil Zamora.

By Fax: 902 426 1489

Dear Mr. Zamora,

re: Whites Cove Blasting Plan

Further to our telephone discussions and your subsequent fax regarding the blasting plan for the Whites Cove quarry I can advise as follows:

I. Reference General Comment #2, Global Quarry Products letter of Jan. 28th 03 in response to Fisheries and Oceans - Habitat Management Division letter of Dec. 11th 02. With reference to the statement "this initial blast represents the most critical blast in relation to the marine environment and will be closely monitored" I can clarify as follows: The initial blast is seen as the most critical because the operational plan for the quarry places this initial blast at the closest distance to the marine environment. The quarry will be developed in a northerly and easterly direction away from the shore line and there is no intent to quarry south of the Whites Cove road.

2. I agree that the statement on page 5 of the Blasting Plan is somewhat confusing. To clarify I can advise that all blasts will be monitored for concussion and vibration in accordance with the Permit issued by the NS Department of Environment and Labour (see Terms and Conditions Section 10 e). Further all blasts will be monitored to ensure that an overpressure of 100 kPa is not exceeded.

3. "Subsequent blasts will be designed on the information gathered from monitoring the initial blast".

To Clarify: If the limits set out in the Terms and Conditions of the quarry Permit are exceeded or an overpressure in excess of 100 kPa is created by the initial blast then an immediate redesign would take place to lower the charge to meet the stipulated limits. However, if the limits were not exceeded in a statistically significant number of early blasts then a redesign for blasts further away from the marine environment could result in a larger charge being used. An increase in charge based on the results of the initial blast would not take place.

I trust that the above clarifies the issues to your satisfaction.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Paul G. Buxton', written over the typed name below.

Paul G. Buxton