

**SECHELT PENINSULA AND PAN PACIFIC AGGREGATES**

The Sechelt Peninsula and Pan Pacific Aggregates project is a proposal by Pan Pacific Aggregates Ltd. to construct and operate a carbonate mine approximately 15 km north of Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast of BC. The mine would produce four to six million tonnes of carbonate (limestone and dolomite) per year for a predicted minimum operational life of 25 years. Carbonate would be transported by conveyor from the mine to a foreshore facility, where it would be shipped by barge to market.

The proposal is currently early in the review stages of the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* process. At this time, the proposal has not triggered a federal assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, although Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada (TC) have requested further information to determine if they may trigger. Environment Canada (EC) has responded to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency indicating that EC will not be a Responsible Authority for this project. The mine also requires permits from the Sunshine Coast Regional District to proceed. Operationally, the mine is at the advanced feasibility study stage. The proponent indicates that it hopes to be operating in early 2008.

The primary environmental concerns with the mine are potential impacts to surface water and groundwater quality. Surface waters may be contaminated by run-off or spills from the mine, and groundwater may be impacted by hydrological changes due to the mine pit and groundwater contamination from the mine operation. There are several other environmental issues including impacts of land clearing on wildlife, air quality impacts due to mineral handling operations, and potential fish habitat impacts due to the barge loading facility, among others.

There is substantial local objection to the project. The Area A Quality Water Association has written to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency expressing concerns that the mine will aggravate an existing problem with arsenic in local well water. The Friends of Sechelt Peninsula has developed a website to oppose the project (<http://www.stopitgroup.com>). They are also in the process of formulating a petition to the federal government (Environment Canada, Transport Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada). The Sunshine Coast Conservation Society and the Save our Sunshine Coast group also oppose the project on their websites.

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