

**WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL**

**INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION REPORT**

By

Elgin Consulting and Research

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## **1. METHODOLOGY**

Primary contact with Bilcon of Nova Scotia's office could broadly be categorized as employment related or information access. Individuals would drop into the office and engage in informal conversation. It was also common for an individual to visit the office after speaking with one of Bilcon's Consultants or the Operations Manager.

Further, Elgin's Consultant frequently encountered individuals in the community who had questions about the project, the environmental approval process and possible impacts of the development. The concerns or comments associated with these interactions are also included in this documentation.

## **2. INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**

In the Bilcon office, individuals were greeted and encouraged to ask questions. Displayed on the office walls were maps and schematics that provided details of the project. Also available were various handouts such as newsletters and Proponent information.

In the community, discussions with Elgin's Consultant took on various forms. In many cases these casual encounters led to home visits or more detailed private conversations at other locations.

## **3. TARGET AREA**

The target area is defined as Digby Neck commencing at Seawall, westerly to Long Island, Long Island and Brier Island.

## 4. CONTACTS

Below is a partial list of contacts made by Elgin's Consultant on an individual basis. Many names have been omitted as Elgin assured the individual that if requested, total anonymity would be maintained.

### 4.1 Office / Telephone/ Personal Interactions within the Target Area (November 2003-July 2005)

#### **Mr. George Gavel - Centreville Resident**

Elgin's Consultant met with Mr. Gavel on multiple occasions, primarily at an outside business location, over coffee. It is his contention that jobs are needed in the area and that this quarry will provide employment. He is very concerned by the delay in start up.

#### **Mr. Charles Thibodeau Sr. - Former Resident of East Ferry who now resides in Brighton.**

Mr. Thibodeau is insistent that this development moves forward as he sees this as a viable employment opportunity for local residents. He stated that he is frustrated with the length of time the project is taking to come to completion.

#### **Mr. Woodrow Outhouse - Chair Tiverton & Area Board of Trade**

Mr. Outhouse worked in quarries in New England prior to his return to the islands in the 1960's. He has reservations about this development as he had observed the dust and sediment that resulted from his experience in the United States. His concerns are:

- The run-off from the quarry will negatively affect the Bay of Fundy's ecosystems
- Impacts on the tourism sector associated with the visitor perception of this area not as an eco-tourism destination, but as an industrial centre
- The potential of ship strikes by the 'Bilcon' vessel on Right Whales

#### **Mr. Edward & Mrs. Faith Theriault - Sandy Cove Residents**

Mr. & Mrs. Theriault have participated in the Cultural Information Survey. They feel if the regulatory agencies are satisfied, they see no reason for the development not to proceed. Their concerns are:

- The lack of potential employment opportunities on the Neck and Islands

**Mr. Fredrick Horner - Lobster Fisherman**

Mr. Horner has made several contacts with the Bilcon office and has on various occasions, spoken with the Project Manager as well as Elgin's Consultant. Mr. Horner operates out of Sandy Cove. His concerns are:

- The potential impact on the fishery associated with sediment and blasting
- The shipping route and the potential losses to traps

**Mr. Roger Tidd - Whites Cove Lobster Fisherman**

Mr. Tidd has significant reservations about the quarry development. His concerns are:

- Potential implications of blasting on the fish stocks
- The potential for eco-system damage associated with sediment
- The introduction of non-indigenous species through ballast
- The potential of water table problems associated with the blasting
- Tourism impacts associated with the change in the travelling public's perception of this area
- His neighbours' perceptions of how this development will affect their lives

Mr. Tidd is extremely community minded and supportive of other members of the community. Although he has not taken a role in the opposition group, he has attempted to understand the perspectives of the individuals in the group. Mr. Tidd has also participated in the consultation initiated by Bilcon with the lobster fishermen. It is his opinion that even though he opposes the development, he wants to have accurate information and keep the lines of communication open with the Proponent for the benefit of his fellow fisherman.

**Mr. Bruce Theriault - Lobstermen's Association LFA #34**

Mr. Theriault participated in a focus group with Bilcon to facilitate the development of remedial efforts for the lobster fishermen, should the Whites Point Project proceed. He expressed concerns associated with:

- The sediment and the potential of damage to the eco-system of the Bay of Fundy
- The introduction on non-indigenous species to the Bay of Fundy via the ships ballast

He has previously had some discussions associated with Canso and Northern New Brunswick.

**Ms. Wanda Van Tassell**

Ms. Van Tassell was involved in the community discussion associated with a potential bottling plant at Gulliver's Cove, Nova Scotia and her perception is proponents who do not have ancestral roots in the county cannot always be trusted. She believes the harvest of inter-tidal species is a traditional industry in Digby County. Ms. VanTassell has concerns about:

- The potential impact of this development on the Bay of Fundy eco-systems

**Mr. Rodney O'Neill - Director Nova Scotia Aquaculture Association**

Mr. O'Neill stated on multiple occasions that he is "in favour of economic development". Mr. O'Neill has extensive experience in the fishing industry as he has been involved in scallop, lobster, and ground fishing as a boat owner. He holds multiple certifications associated with the industry. Mr. O'Neill has met with the Project Manager, the Quarry Manager, and the Elgin's Consultant on various occasions. His concerns are:

- The introduction of non-indigenous species via ballast
- The loss of traps and gear as a result of the shipping during the lobster season
- Blasting impacts on the fish/whales
- Sediment and airborne dust from blasting and potential eco-system impacts to the Bay of Fundy

Mr. O'Neill also stated that there is a "desperate need for long term sustainable employment". He feels that this project would help. Further, he would welcome another possible marine terminal on the Bay of Fundy side of the Neck as this is "sorely needed". He made the suggestion that Bilcon work with the fisherman's groups to modify the design of the terminal so that it could become another "safe port for the Fundy side of the Neck".

**Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thibodeau Jr. - Residents of Sandy Cove**

Mr. Thibodeau is a Ferry Captain and Mrs. Thibodeau is employed by the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services/Income Assistance. They are aware of the need for increased employment opportunities in the area and feel the jobs offered by the project would be beneficial. Mr. Thibodeau has confidence in the regulatory agencies, but wants assurances that the employment opportunities will be offered first to local residents.

**Mr. Randy & Mrs. Cindy Nesbitt - Small Business Operators, Digby Neck**

Mr. & Mrs. Nesbitt continue to have weekly contact with Elgin's consultant to obtain status and time lines for the project.

**Mr. Harold Rowe** - Bed and Breakfast operator

Mr. Rowe is firmly opposed to this development. His contacts have been associated with information associated with the time lines and the Proponent plans. He has also requested information about the Web Site. His concerns are:

- The credibility of the Proponent
- The potential effects on the Right Whale from ship impacts
- Ballast water (which he called bilge) and non-indigenous species
- Sediment in the bay
- Blasting and the effects on the water table
- Non specific concerns about changes in life style for the residents of the Neck and Islands
- Non-specific problems associated with the destruction of the eco-system and the tourism industry

**Mr. Andy Moir** - Bed and Breakfast Operator

Mr. Moir was a founding member of the main opposition group, Partnership for Sustainable Development. Contacts have been initiated by Elgin's consultant to discuss the project.

**Mr. Roger Outhouse** - Educator, Chair Bay of Fundy Interpretive Centre

Mr. Outhouse was part of the business consultation and the consultation with groups. His concerns are:

- Potential eco-system impacts on the Bay of Fundy from Shipping
- Ballast and ship strikes on whales
- Sediment and destruction of bio-diversity associated with some remedial measures

**Mr. Emerson Carty** - Mink Cove Resident

Mr. Carty made contact with Elgin's consultant regarding a road he constructed which could be used by the Proponent. His concerns are:

- Impacts on the water table as a result of the construction and blasting at the Whites Point Site

**Mr. Louis Walker** - Small Business Operator, Craft Shop

Mr. Walker was part of the business consultation. Mr. Walker is very sceptical of the science as he feels that nothing is absolute and the risks are too great for the water sources to proceed with the project. His concern is:

- The potential impact of the blasting on fresh water supply

**Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Naugler** - Sandy Cove Residents, Business Owners  
Mr. & Mrs. Naugler have never made direct contact with the office. Contacts have always been initiated by Elgin's consultant. Their concerns are:

- Media reports that this development would destroy the fishery, tourism and their way of life
- Mrs. Naugler noted she was fearful of losing her well

**Mr. David and Mrs. Linda Graham** - Small Business Operator, Tourist Cottages

Mr. & Mrs Graham have been involved in the Community Liaison Committee. Their concerns are:

- Potential effects on the eco-systems of the Bay
- Possible negative impacts on tourism

They are satisfied with the Proponent's assurances and have confidence in the regulatory agencies.

**Mr. Peter Morehouse** - B Shore Captain, NSDOT- Village Commissioner, Freeport

Mr. Morehouse has indicated that he has reservations about the project from the environmental aspects. He is concerned about:

- The effects of sediment in the Bay of Fundy
- The introduction of species through ballast
- The effects on the land

**Ms. Dianne Young** - Businesswoman - Central Grove

Ms. Young is aware that employment opportunities are limited and the project would provide much needed opportunities, however she felt that she did not know enough about the potential risks to the Bay of Fundy eco-systems. She did not wish to review the Proponent's information.

**Mr. James Outhouse** - Westport Resident

Mr. Outhouse is aware of potential environmental impacts. He sees the benefits of potential employment. His concerns are:

- Sediment
- The possibility of species introduction through ballast



**Mr. Terry Gidney - Mink Cove Resident**

Mr. Gidney owns and operates his own small 4 hectare quarry in Mink Cove. He has not observed any significant impact on the surrounding area from his operation but points out that his is only operating when he has a buyer for his aggregate. There is a fish hatchery in close proximity that uses significant water resources and he said his "quarry hasn't done anything to that place." He feels that the controversy is "more to do with the outsiders that live here than the locals".

**Mrs. Stephanie Trask - Little River resident**

Mrs. Trask is the wife of Frederick Trask who is the owner of Ocean Trawlers Fishery. The contacts were initiated by Elgin's consultant. Her concerns are:

- The impact of the development on her well
- Her spouse's fish plant business, particularly the water resource

**Mr. Harold and Mrs. Genie Wilkins - Retired Sandy Cove Residents**

Both are active in the opposition group Partnership for Sustainable Development. Mrs Wilkins frequently attended the Community Liaison Meetings and has contacted the Bilcon office for minutes. Their concerns are:

- The credibility of the Proponent

**Mr. Pat & Mrs. Kim Lamarche - Residents of East Ferry**

This couple relocated in June of 2005 due to lack of employment in the area for Mr. Lamarche. Mrs. Lamarche was the Nurse Practitioner for the Islands Expanded Capacity Program. Their contacts with the office and Elgin's consultant were for project updates, time lines and employment.

**4.2 Office / Telephone / Personal Interactions outside the Target Area**  
November 2003-July 2005

**Mr. Vance Hazelton - President Full Bay Scallop Association**

These contacts were informal and occurred in 2005. Mr. Hazelton maintains that scallops are filter feeders and are very sensitive to changes in their environment. This "is one of the two remaining lucrative fisheries in the Bay of Fundy". He agreed there is a genuine need for more employment opportunities in the area. Mr. Hazelton's concerns are:

- The effects of sediment
- The potential of non-indigenous species in the Bay of Fundy associated with the ballast water

**Mr. Reg Hazelton - Scallop Fisherman (Retired)**

Elgin's consultant spoke with Mr. Hazelton on two occasions in the Bilcon office. Although he is retired, he continues to take an active interest in the fishery and community issues. He is currently the Chair of the Digby Harbour Society, a group attempting to regain control of a former federally-owned wharf that was sold to a public sector entrepreneur. This has been a significant problem for the scallop fishermen, as the infrastructure is now in very poor repair. It was he who first suggested that there could be a potential use for the marine terminal to the fishing sector. If precautions were taken to ensure that the current fisheries would not be negatively affected by the project, then he saw the project as a positive source of employment.

**Mr. & Mrs. H. Robicheau - Restaurant Owners/Bed & Breakfast Operators**  
Mrs. Robicheau was on Digby Town Council until she retired in 2004. Mr. and Mrs. Robicheau see the value in the potential employment to residents of the Town of Digby. They are aware of the project location and are pleased that it cannot be seen from Highway #217. Their concerns are:

- The possible impact on the lobster fishery
- Eco-system damage as a result of blasting or sedimentation

**Mr. Michael Bartlett - Town Counsellor**

Mr. Bartlett is on the Executive of both the Port of Digby, a tourism development Group and the Downtown Digby Business Associations. Mr. Bartlett expressed concerns regarding:

- The possible negative impact on tourism
- The perceptual issue associated with a large industrial development in what is being marketed as an eco-tourism destination
- The potential impact on the residents of Little River
- The effects of the quarry on the water resources of the community
- The effects of blasting on the water table

**Mr. Robert Eisner - Tourism Operator**

Mr. Eisner attended the Tourism Open House and spoke with the Project Manager. In follow-up, there were conversations about the legal action by the Proponent against a Little River resident. He noted that the open house held specifically for the tourism sector was not well attended. He stated that he "was disappointed that many of his fellow operators did not take advantage of the opportunity". His concern is:

- The effects of the development on the water resources for the residents of Little River

**Mr. Murray Trask - Businessman**

Mr. Trask is the landlord for the office space occupied by Bilcon. On multiple occasions the project has been discussed. He "doesn't wish to get involved" referring to the controversy associated with the project. His concerns are:

- Employment
- The impacts of blasting on the water table
- The legal action initiated by Bilcon against a Little River resident

**Mr. Ken Woodman - Businessman - Tourism Sector**

Mr. Woodman has attended all the public functions hosted by Bilcon. He has been a strong supporter of economic development and feels that this development would be effective in creating badly needed employment at a living wage.

**Mr. & Mrs. Roger Marshall - Digby Downtown Business Community**

Mr. & Mrs. Marshall have confidence in the government regulatory process and feel that this project would provide employment. They had concerns about:

- The environmental impact on the Bay of Fundy
- sediment
- Loss of habitat
- Ships' ballast
- The introduction of non-indigenous species

**Ms. Cindy Amero - Gulliver's Cove resident and Restaurateur**

As of the fall of 2004, Ms. Amero ceased her restaurant operation. It is her assertion that the company must hire locally as much as possible. Ms. Amero's concerns are:

- Possible employment opportunities

**Mr. & Mrs. Richard Treleaven - Motel Operators & Restaurateurs**

Mr. and Mrs. Treleaven were very interested in the restoration plan, and they requested that Elgin's consultant provide them with information regarding the potential impact on the tourism sector. Mr. Treleaven heard that this development would change the perception of this area as an eco-tourism destination. Their concerns are:

- The assertions of some of the members of the opposition that the project would "destroy the water table and the eco-system of the Bay of Fundy"

**Mr. Edward Reid - Businessman/Tourism Operator (Retired)**

Mr. Reid attended two of the Bilcon Open Houses. He has confidence in the regulatory agencies. His contacts were associated with trying to understand the nature of the project. He has reviewed the project schematics on the restoration, the site development and the shipping route. His concern is:

- "A slap suit" against the resident of Little River

**Mr. Lester Barstow - Businessman/Tourism Operator (Retired)**

Mr. Barstow wanted assurances that the employment would be offered to locals first. He reviewed the project restoration plan.

**Father Adrian Potter** – Bed & Breakfast Operator, Russian Orthodox Priest  
Fr. Potter feels there is a need for employment as there are few opportunities here for young people. He has attended all public events held by Bilcon. He has confidence in the regulatory authorities. Fr. Potter closed his business in 2004 as he was experiencing a steady decline in occupancy.

**Mr. Will Huntley - Sales Manager Sawlor Fuels**

Mr. Huntley would like his company to supply the fuel and lubricants for the project. He wanted a project description and has no concerns about the effectiveness of the regulatory agencies.

**Mr. James M. Wheelhouse - Retired Town CEO/RC Legion Zone President**

Mr. Wheelhouse is supportive of this development. It is his opinion that if the regulatory agencies are satisfied with the environmental controls and the project will be providing much needed local employment, then he would like to see it proceed. He has attended all of the public open house opportunities offered by Bilcon. His concern is:

- The legal action against a Little River Resident

**Mr. Oren & Mrs. Susanna Foster - Veteran, Senior Citizens - Deep Brook**

Mr. Foster stated that he feels there is a need for economic opportunities in the area, but he feels that the matter is best left to the regulatory agencies which are equipped with the legislation and the experts to monitor the practices of the Proponent.

**Dr. L. R. Denton - Former Little River Resident**

Elgin's Consultant met with Dr. Denton in the office in Digby after several telephone conversations. His concerns are:

- The cultural and potential historical implications of this development

**Mr. Frank Marshall - Retired Educator - Bear River**

Mr. Marshall is of the opinion that if the people did not want the project, then the Proponent should respect these wishes. His concerns are:

- The possible impact on the residents of Digby Neck as described in the media reports

**Mr. & Mrs. Jack Morell - Former residents of Digby Neck who now reside in Barton**

Mr. and Mrs. Morell would like to see the project proceed as the employment is needed. They have had frequent contact with the office to ascertain the project status.

**Mr. Leroy Morell - Brighton Resident**

Mr. Morell would like to obtain full-time employment. He has had frequent contacts with the Bilcon office.

**Mr. Bud Winchester - Cornwallis Park Resident**

Mr. Winchester has confidence in the regulatory agencies and feels that employment is needed. There have been frequent contacts to ascertain the status of the project.

**Mr. & Mrs. John MacKinnon - Educator, Digby Town residents**

Mr. and Mrs. MacKinnon agree that the project will be a positive development with respect to employment, however they are aware of the strong opposition movement as Mr. MacKinnon is an educator on the island. They met the Clayton's in 2003 and were very candid in their opinion. They have the perception that this project will "never happen (John)" due to the opposition that has been mounted by the residents of Little River.

**Mrs. Faye Haley - Retired Educator, Chair Tri-County School Board**

Ms. Haley feels by permitting this project to proceed, others who are less credible will have an "open door". Her concerns are:

- The legal action against a Little River resident
- The impact this development will have on future American investments under NAFTA

**The Honourable Gordon Balsler - Educator, Former MLA**

Mr. Balsler has had updates since leaving office as to the status of the project. He has always contended that there is a regulatory process and this process must be followed. He has no stated opinion.

**Ms. Anne Marie Hazel - Lighthouse Road Resident**

"If it happens it will be good for the jobs, but it won't happen." There was frequent contact associated with the project developments and the time line.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Agar - Cornwallis Park Resident**

Mrs. Agar contacted the office for project developments and time lines. On two occasions she received some material/donations for charities with which she was associated.

**Ms. Maureen Potter - Deep Brook Resident**

Ms. Potter was interested in hearing about the project from the perspective of the Proponent, as she had obtained "contradictory" information from the media. Additional contacts were regarding the time line for project start-up. She believes the employment associated with the project will be very positive for the Neck communities as "there is not much left there".

**Mr. Ken & Mrs. Maxine Connell - Smith's Cove residents**

Mr. & Mrs. Connell contacted the office for time lines as they were very interested in the potential of employment for citizens of the area. They also wanted to hear about the development from the perspective of the Proponent so that they could make an informed decision about the project.

**Mr. John Levings, Occupational Health and Safety**

Mr. Levings delivered to the office several relevant publications associated with Occupational Health and Safety, blasting regulations, and the formation of the Occupational Health and Safety committees on site. He has, on many occasions, provided direction to locate appropriate regulations.

#### **4.3 Fundraising Requests and Information Exchanges**

**Mrs. Jean Marshall - Bear River resident Chair Digby County Exhibition**

Mrs. Marshall explored the options for financial support for the exhibition events.

**Mrs. Brenda Lewis - RCMP Senior Safety Program**

Mrs. Lewis requested and received funding support for the Senior Safety Program

**Constable Corey Bushell**, Digby Crime Prevention Committee Liaison  
Constable Bushell requested funding for the proposed skate park in Digby and support for school programs. To date, he has not provided a proposal to Elgin's consultant.

**Mrs. Pat Haliburton**, Member, Digby Crime Prevention Committee  
Elgin's consultant met with the Crime Prevention Committee and provided the Committee with a Project Description and answered questions about the Proponent. Mrs. Haliburton's concerns are:

- "Profound reservations about a construction industry company from New Jersey"

**Mr. Alan Ferguson** - Educator Tiverton Resident  
Mr. Ferguson wanted to explore the potential of obtaining funding support for transportation issues associated with field trips and sports events.

**Mr. Ben Elms** - Principal, Digby Regional High School  
**Mrs. Bev Ross** - Guidance Counsellor, Digby Regional High School  
DRHS sought and obtained funding support for students and special projects i.e., Safe Grad, Encounters with Canada.

#### **4.4 Black Community Individual Consultations**

**Ms. Marlene Cole** - Weymouth & Area Counselling Services/Weymouth Falls Community  
Ms. Cole has had monthly contact with Elgin's consultant and has visited the office on multiple occasions. Her questions are:

- Employment and training needs of the project

**Mrs. Gail Jarvis** - Candidate for Municipal Council- Black Women's Health Project  
Ms. Jarvis made frequent contacts to ascertain when the project would be hiring personnel.

**4.5 Community Liaison Committee Members**  
(Individual questions regarding project status and developments)

Ms. Christine Harnish, Real Estate Broker/CLC Member  
Mr. Mark Jeffrey, Fisherman/CLC Member  
Mrs. Judy Carty, Gulliver's Cove Resident/CLC member  
Mr. John Ivens, Fisherman/CLC Member  
Mr. Brian Cullen, CEO Municipality of Digby  
Mrs. Cindy Nesbitt, Chair CLC

CLC Members made contact with Elgin's consultant, both via telephone, in person, and at the Bilcon office to ascertain the status of the development after the CLC meetings became infrequent. Questions were:

- Hearing dates for the Panel
- How to request funding from CEEA
- How long before the project starts
- When will new information be available on the water issue, wells etc.
- Lobster fishermen concerns – Had Bilcon met with them and what was the result
- Were there any changes in the restoration plan

**4.6 Partnership for Sustainable Development**

**Ms. Christine Callighan** - B& B Operator  
**Ms. Mary MacCarthy** - Brighton Resident

These individuals are actively involved in the acquisition of traditional knowledge on behalf of the Quarry Opposition. Elgin's consultant contacted each of these people via the telephone offering to share the traditional information Elgin acquired in the interest of historical accuracy.

**Mr. Terry Farnsworth** - Fisherman

Contacts with Mr. Farnsworth have been by telephone, at other locations, such as public meetings and via letter. Mr. Farnsworth's concerns are:

- This development will have a negative effect on the fishery through environmental damage.



**Mr. Kemp Stanton - Whites Cove Lobster Fisherman**

Mr. Stanton was invited to the focus group meetings for the Whites Cove Lobster fishermen; however he chose to remain in his vehicle rather than come into the Bilcon office. Other contacts with Mr. Stanton have been in the community or at various public meetings. Mr. Stanton is fully opposed to the Whites Point Project and has taken an active role in the 'Stop the Quarry Group'. He has stated his concerns to be "destruction of the Bay of Fundy eco-systems"

**4.7 Employment Related Contacts**

As Elgin's consultant was in the Bilcon office for an extended period, many who had applications on file would contact the office via telephone or in person to ascertain the status of the project and the projected time lines.

Identities of employment applicants are considered by Elgin's consultant to be confidential. There are seventeen applicants who contact the Bilcon office on a regular basis. One is seeking a payroll position, thirteen will "take anything", and three are truckers who want to give up long haul trips. Several applicants made it known that if their current employer became aware of their application, then they had reason to believe that they would lose their current position. These four job seekers have made frequent telephone contacts with both the office and Elgin's consultant at home.

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**4.8 Public Services Information (acquired from individual contacts)**

There are several public services that are accessed by residents of the Neck and the Islands. As part of the Business and Community Consultation, there were discussions with the providers of these services to ascertain the number of people employed by these services. In addition to acquiring the employment figures, the questions and the concerns of the various contacts were discussed. These were all field contacts, with the exception of personnel from the Department of Transportation and Public Works (TPW). TPW personnel met on multiple occasions with Elgin's consultant at the Bilcon office.

## **Federal Government Services**

### **Canadian Coast Guard Services - Westport**

Discussion centered on the size of the vessel, frequency of the shipping and customs questions.

## **Provincial Government Services**

### **NS Department of Transportation and Public Works Ferry Services - East Ferry**

Contact Peter Morehouse - Provincial Government Ferry Service.

As the quarry is located on Digby Neck, there is no real impact to the service in terms of wear and tear. Further, since the ship is not entering either Grand or Petite Passages, it was felt that there would not be a direct impact on the Ferry Service.

### **Road Services, Digby Base - salt/sand storage in Freeport/Westport**

**David Comeau – Digby      Paul Stone - Area Manager - Middleton**

There have been numerous discussions with the department concerning the condition of the Whites Cove Road and the need for an industrial entrance from Highway #217. The stopping and sighting distance approval for the entrance was completed in 2002 and rechecked in 2004. The question of whether or not there would be an obligation for the provision of winter maintenance once the quarry is established was also discussed without resolution. Applications were made to TPW for the acquisition of the Whites Cove Road (Route 422) which is a Z class route as the road is in serious condition and in great need of repair. The Province is not willing to lease or sell the asset at this time but they do not have the resources to initiate repairs. This was also discussed at length.

### **Nova Scotia Department of Health/South West Regional Health Board Expanded Capacity Nurse Practitioner and Paramedic Program - Freeport**

Access for emergency response was an issue as the current road condition prohibits the use of the current emergency vehicles. Further, they felt that they would need an inventory of chemicals stored at the site as a precaution for their personnel who would be involved in a response to the site. The specialized suits, etc. are already part of standard equipment on each unit. The current Supervisor for Digby is Mr. Steven Menzies. The Nurse Practitioner on site when the consultation was completed was Mrs. Kim Lemarche. Since that time (as of July 1 2005), Mrs. Lemarche has taken a position in Cape Breton. The New Nurse Practitioner will start work on September 1, 2005.

### Tri-County Regional School Board

<b>Digby Neck Consolidated School</b>	-	Sandy Cove
<b>Islands Consolidated School</b>	-	Freeport
<b>Westport Village School</b>	-	Westport

Increased employment opportunities for younger families could potentially lead to an increase in enrolment for these schools. It was noted that all the schools were built for larger capacities than the current enrolment so this was not considered a concern with Island or Westport. The Principal of DNCS is an active participant in the Partnership for Sustainable Development.

### Municipal Services

**Digby Salvage and Disposal** - Commercial Waste Disposal  
Bilcon will have to arrange for commercial waste disposal. Preliminary contact was made with Greg Thomas, Digby Salvage and Disposal.

## 4.9 Volunteer Services

### **Digby Neck Fire Department**

Currently there is a shortage of active members. This project has the potential to stress the service should there be a need for fire equipment deployment. Additionally, the access road is an issue.

### **Tiverton Volunteer Fire Department**

The lack of personnel here is not as great an issue as in Sandy Cove; however, the equipment is in need of upgrade.

### **Freeport Volunteer Fire Department**

The Freeport Volunteer Fire Department is the back up for the Tiverton and Sandy Cove Fire Departments.

### **Fundy Ground Search and Rescue**

They would see a benefit from the project, as the road to the shore will have to be upgraded. Useful from their perspective would be another easy access to the Fundy Shore for future searches. It was also noted that currently, helicopter pads are not available on the Neck.

Suggestions for Bilcon that arose from these interactions:

- The quarry site could have, as part of its infrastructure, a helicopter pad.
- Due to the personnel crisis that is existent in several of the volunteer based services, would Bilcon consider an incentive program with its personnel to encourage them to become active with the Volunteer Fire Service on the Neck?
- As there will be a need for customs on a regular basis, perhaps there is an opportunity to cooperate with other community-based resources that would benefit from accessing customs, particularly in the summer months, i.e., the airport, the wharf in Digby, and the Tiverton waterfront development.

## 5. SUMMARY

In many cases, the individuals made contact with the office on multiple occasions. For example, as this project has been in development for over two years, it was not uncommon for a job-seeker to visit the office four or five times over that period for a project update.

- Employment applications, information about potential positions and an estimate as to when the project would proceed. Concern over the delay associated with the review process.
- Concerns about the impact of the project on the fishing industry. This included blasting effects, sediment in the Bay of Fundy, the marine terminal location in relation to the positioning of traps in the Cove, the shipping route, ship size, and interference that would occur during the lobster season.
- Concerns about the restoration plan. There was some question as to the quality of the fill that would be used in the reclamation restoration plan. It had been widely rumoured that the site would be used as a landfill for waste from the United States. As noted in the summaries, several individuals wondered whether or not toxic waste would be used in the restoration. Further, what would the property look like during and after the Proponent began to mine the area?
- Concern about possible tourism effects which also could be linked to the restoration. The focus here was whether or not the development could be seen from Highway #217.
- Concerns regarding the law suit that was initiated by the Proponent against a resident of Little River.
- Requests for information particularly CLC minutes, CEAA and NSDEL publications, and project schematic diagrams. After April 2005, those people requesting this information were referred to the Bilcon Web Site if they had access to the Web.
- Suggestions from individuals as to possible cooperative measures that would be of benefit to Bilcon and the community at large. For example: possible modifications to the marine terminal that would create a safe mooring for fishing vessels in trouble in the Bay of Fundy.