

*Advice to Minister*

*Advice to Deputy*

*Environment and Labour* **Briefing Note**

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## Nova Stone Exporters Inc., Quarry Application Little River, Digby County

### Issue:

- Application for approval received by NSDEL to operate a quarry in Little River, Digby County.

### Key Message:

- Due to the scale of the proposed activity, in NSDEL's detailed review of the application it was identified that an Environmental Assessment may be necessary. This was confirmed.

### Background:

- In mid February an application was received by the department for an approval to operate a 10 acre quarry (blasting) in Little River, Digby County.
- The proposed quarry bordered the a portion of the Bay of Fundy shoreline.
- The application was also sent to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Bedford Institute of Oceanography for comment on the effects of the blast concussion on marine life (i.e. Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale).
- The application was reviewed based on the information that it was under 4 hectares in area, in turn not requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- The application was copied to the Environmental Assessment Branch to ensure that all aspects of the facility were factored into the area calculation
- The comments received from the EA branch stated that an access road, constructed wetland and spillway were not factored into the area, therefore placing the area in excess of the 4 hectare limitation, which would require the proponent to register with EA.

### Recommendation / Current Position:

- Although the department has not received written comments from DFO regarding this issue, the application will be rejected, based on the evidence that it exceeds 4 ha. and would require the proponent to register the application with the Environmental Assessment office.

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Time: 11:00 am