



Environment  
and Labour  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 697  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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Our File Number:  
10700-40

DEPT. OF THE ENVIRONMENT

JUN 4 2003

JUN - 6 2003

YARMOUTH DISTRICT  
OFFICE  
YARMOUTH, N.S.

Hon. Gordon Balsler, MLA  
Digby/Annapolis Constituency Office  
PO Box 1827  
Digby NS B0V 1A0

Dear Mr. Balsler:

Thank you for your letter dated May 6, 2003 concerning the blasting plan submitted by Nova Stone Exporters. We have recently been informed that Fisheries and Oceans Canada is nearing completion of their review and a written response is forthcoming.

Your letter refers to both the application from Nova Stone Exporters Inc. and that of the Parker Mountain Aggregates quarry at Tiverton. Both applications were processed in a similar manner. In the case of Nova Stone Exporters, following a review by Fisheries and Oceans Canada it was determined that the blasting plan must be accepted by that Department in order to prevent possible impacts on marine mammals.

Staff have been in regular communication with both Fisheries and Oceans and the proponent regarding the status of this review. Once the response from Fisheries and Oceans has been received, all involved will have a better understanding of the factors which will affect the proposed blasting.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Kim MacNeil, Western Region Manager, Kentville Regional Office, at (902) 679-6068.

With personal regards,

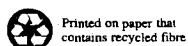
**Original Signed By**

Ronald S. Russell, CD  
Minister  
MLA - Hants West

cc: Kim MacNeil

bcc: R. L'Esperance  
G. MacLellan  
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