

**From:** Bob E Langdon  
**To:** L'Esperance, Ronald  
**Date:** 5/26/03 3:42pm  
**Subject:** Nova Stone Exporters

DFO (Ottawa) indicated today that they are considering establishing a panel to review the environmental assessment for the expanded quarry. They want to know if we will consider a joint review.

They have 2 options;

- 1) A comprehensive study (takes about 18 months). Even if they do this the Fed. Minister could then order a panel if questions remain.
- 2) A review panel (takes about 24 months but it is open ended). This is the final step.

If we do a joint panel we work with them to establish a schedule for decision that brings closure to it.

The process is that normally a panel of 3 people is established (1 appointed by the feds, 1 by NS and the 3rd is the chair & is jointly chosen).

The panel will hear the submissions (pro & con) and then will make one recommendation to both governments who then make respective decisions.

Approval to proceed is requested.