

From: Ronald L'Esperance
To: Langdon, Bob E
Date: 5/28/03 8:11AM
Subject: Re: Nova Stone Exporters/advice to Minister

Bob, I have now had a chance to speak to the Minister at some length on this matter. Given the local concerns, the magnitude of the proposed future operation (it would have been required to go thru EA beyond the existing 3.9h) and the intersecting jurisdiction with the Fed, we think it is appropriate to proceed with a joint assessment. We favor the panel approach. I'd like to talk to you about the provincial appointment process. I'd also like for you to talk to Valerie so that we understand how this is to be communicated and can have a chance to shape provincial interests and consider other factors like timing etc. Once you have talked to Valerie on it can we discuss. Bob, my thanks to your staff and you for all the work on this file. I am copying Gerard and Bob Petrie as well both in appreciation for their efforts and for info. Please maintain confidentiality on this until the adjoining issues are finalized. Many thanks Ron

ps Lynda please pass on to the Minister

>>> Bob E Langdon 05/26/03 03:42PM >>>

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.

CC: Baiden, Lynda S; Bellefontaine, Valerie A; MacLellan, Gerard J; Petrie, Bob D