



**Canadian Environmental
Assessment Agency**

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**Agence canadienne
d'évaluation environnementale**

Président
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**MEMORANDUM TO MINISTER
NOTE DE SERVICE AU MINISTRE**

<p>Subject / Objet</p> <p>Referral of the Whites Point Quarry Project to a Joint Review Panel</p>	<p>Purpose for Memorandum / Raison d'être</p> <p>Decision and signature upon receipt</p>
	<p>Prepared by / Préparé par</p> <p>Steve Chapman (819) 997-2937</p>
	<p>Security Classification / Classification de sécurité</p> <p>PROTECTED</p>
	<p>File number / No. de dossier RDIMS # 8112</p> <p>MIN 045452</p>
	<p>Date</p> <p>JUL 18 2003</p>

ISSUE

The referral of the Whites Point Quarry Project to a joint review panel and the release, for public comment, of a draft agreement between you and the Province of Nova Scotia on a harmonized joint panel review process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that you:

1. approve the referral of the Whites Point Quarry Project to a joint review panel pursuant to section 40 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;
2. approve the release of the draft agreement for public comment; and
3. sign the attached letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

CONSIDERATIONS

On June 26, 2003, the Honourable Robert Thibault, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, referred the Whites Point Quarry Project to you for environmental assessment by way of a review panel.

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Since June 26, the Agency has negotiated a draft agreement for a joint panel review process with the Province of Nova Scotia. The attached draft agreement defines your role in appointing the panel members following the nomination of candidates by the Agency and the Province. The agreement also establishes the joint panel's terms of reference and procedures. Subject to your approval, the draft agreement will be released for public comment.

NEXT STEPS

If you approve, a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans is attached for your signature.

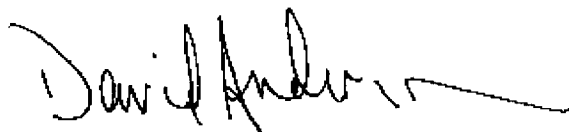
Your approval will be followed by an Agency news release that signals your decision to establish a joint review panel and invites the public to comment on the draft agreement.

At the completion of the comment period, I will submit the final agreement for your approval and signature. Following your approval of the agreement, the Agency will seek public comment on draft environmental impact statement guidelines.



Sid Gershberg

I concur



David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

Attachments

c.c.: Suzanne Hurtubise

BACKGROUND

The Project

Global Quarry Products is proposing to construct and operate a basalt quarry, processing facility and marine terminal located on Digby Neck in Digby County, Nova Scotia.

Quarrying is expected to take place on 120 hectares of land with production expected to be 2 million tonnes of aggregate per year. Approximately 4 hectares of new quarry would be opened each year. The land-based quarry operations are expected to be year round with aggregate stockpiled for ship loading once per week. Drilling and blasting of basalt rock, loading, hauling, crushing, screening, washing, and stockpiling would be done on-site.

Land-based permanent structures would include rock crushers, screens, closed circuit wash facilities, conveyers, load out tunnel, support structures and environmental control structures. Associated construction processes would include the erection of on-land aggregate processing equipment, conveyers and wash-water pumping systems.

Marine facilities would include a conveyor, ship loader, berthing dolphins and mooring buoys. Construction processes for the marine terminal infrastructure would include the anchoring of pile support structures to the basalt rock extending offshore and the construction of concrete caps as dolphins. Approximately 40,000 tonnes of aggregate would be produced for loading each week.

Environmental Assessment Processes

Global Quarry Products has applied for an authorization under subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act* for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat for its respective projects. Approvals from Fisheries and Oceans Canada are also required under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. Prior to issuing these authorizations, Fisheries and Oceans Canada is required to undertake an environmental assessment pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Whites Point Quarry project is also subject to an environmental assessment under the Nova Scotia *Environment Act*. The Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour had expressed concerns regarding the length of time that could be required to conduct a joint review of the project. To that end, the draft agreement specifies timelines associated with key steps in the joint review process that are acceptable to the Province.