
BILCON OF NOVA SCOTIA CORPORATION
Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project

November 8, 2007

The Honourable Mark Parent
Minister of Environment and Labour
5151 Terminal Road, 6th Floor
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2T8

Dear Minister Parent:

Re: Decision on Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project

As the proponent of the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project in Digby County, we are writing to urge you to take a sufficient and reasonable period of time before making a determination about the fate of the Project. We write this letter to you further to your letter of October 29, 2007.

Section 26(1) of the Nova Scotia Environmental Assessment Regulations provides that within 21 days of receiving an environmental assessment report you are generally required to advise the project proponent of your final decision. This would normally indicate a decision being made by November 13, 2007, but the regulation is not mandatory and should not be applied in these circumstances.

This is a complex and delicate matter that demands careful consideration on your part. There is a great deal at stake and there is no need to rush to judgment.

The Joint Review Panel Report is fundamentally flawed and is not based on sound science and facts. The Report does not apply the analytical framework established by the applicable legislation and guidelines, and makes far reaching recommendations that are well beyond the Panel's mandate. The Report ignores important information provided by Bilcon and adopts new rules and standards without providing any opportunity for Bilcon to respond.

In these circumstances, it would be entirely unfair to you, to Bilcon and to all Nova Scotians to expect a just ministerial decision to be made in 21 days without the time required for Bilcon to provide a response and for you to consider the full parameters.

Indeed, the Panel seems to have assumed that the Ministers will simply "rubber stamp" the Report, as it has failed to provide the customary recommendations for minimization of adverse effects and maximization of benefits in the event the project is approved by the Ministers. This unbalanced approach is contrary to the Panel's Terms of Reference.



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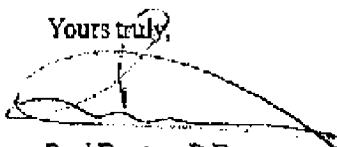
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If you were to "rubber stamp" this Report on a rush basis, an opportunity for significant job creation and economic infusion will be lost for Nova Scotia, a dangerous and inappropriate precedent for environmental assessments will be set, a very negative message will be sent to existing businesses in Nova Scotia and there will be repercussions for potential future investors in Nova Scotia.

A decision beyond the 21 day deadline will in no way be rendered legally invalid or otherwise illegitimate. Indeed, given that the Panel took months to provide its Report after lengthy hearings, it cannot be valid for Bilcon and the Minister to have such a short time to respond with appropriate care and attention. It is vital that you take your time to come to a balanced, well informed and fair decision. To this end, we urge you to meet with us and to hear our response before making a final determination.

This decision is a very important one, not only for us, but for the province of Nova Scotia. We trust you will not feel time pressured to come to a final determination before allowing us the opportunity to provide you with our views. Please let us know if and when we might have the pleasure of meeting with you to discuss this matter.

Yours truly,



Paul Buxton, P. Eng.
Project Manager

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