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Environ. Assessment



House of Assembly
Nova Scotia

April 8, 2003

Honourable Ron Russell
Minister
NS Department of Environment and Labour
Terminal Road Building
Halifax NS

Dear Mr. Russell:

On Friday, April 4th I attended a meeting of the Society for Sustainable Development at the Digby Neck Consolidated School. The intent of the meeting was to inform the 50 people present of the current situation regarding Global Quarry and to lay out plans for the coming months.

It is clear that the Society and those present are fundamentally opposed to the quarry project. The group reaffirmed their commitment to stepping the project's approval process.

The meeting focused on a review of the Community Liaison Committee's information minutes with the intent of highlighting inconsistent or inaccurate data

There was also a discussion of the Navigable Waters Act and the potential negative impact of the proposed load out facility.

Mr. Harold Theriault, director for Area 34L fishing ground, raised a number of concerns re siltation bilge water discharge and the potential negative impact on the fisheries. These issues lie under the purview of the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and it was suggested that correspondence reflecting these concerns be directed to that minister, with copies to myself as the provincial minister.

Local residents also questioned the potential negative impact the quarry might have on local well water and property values as well as the historic cultural uniqueness of Digby Neck.

The Society also raised the issue of local community based economic development versus the intrusive, non sustainable type of development which the quarry project, appears to them, to represent.



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Mr. Russell

It was clear to me and to the other political representatives (local municipal warden and some councillors) that the Society will continue to mount every effort to halt construction of the quarry. It would be my view that they recognize the importance of due process and that the regulatory approval process must be followed. Having said that, the group is clearly unhappy that I, as the local member of the legislature, have not championed their cause more visibly and directly.

The group also requested access to the various documents submitted by the proponents so that the Society can prepare their response.

I will be raising these issues with the local Member of Parliament, who is also the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and who as such has responsibility to the federal legislation and regulations related to this project.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



Hon. Gordon Balsler, MLA
Digby/Annapolis

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