



Habitat Management Division
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Your file *Votre référence*

Our file *Notre référence*

November 12, 2004

03-FCR-020

Mr. Paul G. Buxton, Project Manager
Bilcon of Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 2113
Digby, N.S.
B0V 1A0

Dear Mr. Buxton:

RE: Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal – Blasting Activity

This letter is a follow-up to our meeting on November 2, 2004. The meeting involved discussions regarding the potential effects the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project may have on fish and fish habitat. Blasting was identified as a major activity in the operation of the proposed Whites Point Quarry.

In a previous letter to you dated June 11, 2003 you were informed that the set back distance for the blasting plan you submitted was calculated by Habitat Management Division (HMD) using a computer simulation (“I-Blast”) model, supplied by the developer of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) “Guidelines for the Use of Explosives in or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters” – 1998 (DFO Blasting Guidelines). The set back distance (500 meter horizontal distance from the shore line to the blast location) was determined to be required to protect inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF) Atlantic salmon which are now listed as endangered by the *Species at Risk Act*.

Since the initial calculations were made, DFO has determined that the above mentioned Guidelines can be used to generate a lesser set back distance. In order to protect iBoF Atlantic salmon, DFO recommends that the horizontal distance from shore line to the blast location be at least triple that determined by

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application of the equations in the Guidelines. This would be approximately 100 meters. Furthermore, the proposed blasting plan should be redesigned to reduce the size of the individual charges to be used. The DFO Blasting Guidelines describe how the individual charges can be spilt or decked to further reduce impacts.

DFO looks forward to receiving the revised blasting plan for review. If you have any further questions regarding blasting, or any project activity which may affect fish or fish habitat, please contact me at 902-426-4692.

Sincerely,

Phil Zamora
Habitat Management Division

cc. S. Chapman
M. Freeman
T. Wheaton
M. Penney
B. Petrie