



DEC 3 2003

Mr. Paul Buxton, P. Eng.
Nova Stone Exporters Inc.
PO Box 2113
Digby NS B0V 1A0

Dear Mr. Buxton:

I am writing further to our meeting on October 9, 2003 and your request for an amendment to your Approval #2003-032388, which would enable you to conduct blasting at the White's Cove site.

You refer to conditions 10(h) and 10(i) which state the following:

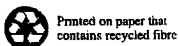
- h) *Blasting shall be conducted in accordance with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Guidelines for the Use of Explosives In or Near Canadian Fisheries Waters - 1998.*
- i) *A report shall be completed by the proponent in advance of any blasting activity verifying the intended charge size and blast design will not have an adverse effect on marine mammals in the area. This report shall be submitted to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Maritimes Aquatic Species at Risk Office and written acceptance of the report shall be received from DFO and forwarded to the Department before blasting commences.*

We understand that Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) remains concerned that blasting at this location may cause adverse effects to marine mammals, as well as endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.

Once DFO has been satisfied that these potential effects to marine mammals have been mitigated, and they confirm their acceptance that the above criteria have been met, blasting may commence at the site.

At the present time, the Province is participating in a joint panel review with the federal government of the proposed expansion of this operation, and it would not be appropriate to remove these conditions without DFO's consent.

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Should you have any additional questions or concerns about the current approval, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Kim MacNeil, Regional Manager at (902) 679-6086.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By

Kerry Morash
Minister

cc: Harold Theriault Jr., MLA
Kim MacNeil

bcc: R. L'Esperance
G. MacLellan
C. Daly
J. Fanning
B. Petrie

DM 6410

Prepared by:
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