



FEB 21 2007

Mr. Ashraf Mahtab  
270 Church Hill Rd.  
Sandy Cove, NS  
B0V 1E0

Dear Mr. Mahtab:

**RE: Environmental Petition #178 for the Proposed Quarry and Marine Terminal at  
White's Point on Digby Neck, Nova Scotia**

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development has forwarded to Transport Canada your letter of October 20, 2006, as Petition #178 regarding the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposed Quarry & Marine Terminal at White's Point on Digby Neck, Nova Scotia (the Project).

For this Project, Transport Canada has determined that a *Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWPA)* approval would likely be required for the marine terminal, which means an EA is required pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Transport Canada has reviewed your petition and more specifically question #6 which asks: "*What studies has the responsible Department done to determine how the marine terminal will impact the navigation of small vessels, including the fishing boats, particularly in inclement weather?*" As this question pertains directly to Transport Canada, may I offer the following:

The Bay of Fundy is a well-established and continuously monitored navigable waterway currently handling hundreds of vessel transits each year. As a result of this Project, it is anticipated that the traffic in the area (Bay of Fundy) will increase by one vessel per week, with little, if any, impact on local traffic. Any vessels intended to operate at the future terminal will have to transit the existing vessel traffic separation scheme. Transport Canada, via the Navigable Waters Protection Program has also completed a navigational impact assessment of the proposed Marine Terminal.

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It is my understanding that other questions contained in your petition will be addressed, where applicable, by the appropriate federal department.

Thank you for bringing your concern to the attention of the Commissioner of the Environment.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lawrence Cannon".

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development  
The Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment  
The Honourable Loyola Hearn, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans