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2007-10-25 01:48 PM

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bcc:

Subject: Whites Point Quarry

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Hi,

I attended a meeting at the CEAA office here in Ottawa this morning, to discuss the government response to the Whites Point Quarry panel report. Lorrie Roberts, from Nova Scotia Environment and Labour was at the meeting. She indicated that her departments recommendation to their Minister will probably be to recommend he deny the project (a no go). Of course the final decision is up to the Minister. The GoC response to the first recommendation will mirror the response of the province.

The province is pushing for a fast response to the panel. Their legislature will begin session November 22 and they want the Minister's decision before then (perhaps November 15 or 16). DFO, who is taking the lead on drafting the GoC response said that it would be almost impossible to match this timeline, given how long things take to go through cabinet. They will try to speed up the process though. If decisions aren't at the same time that is likely okay, since it is a provincial lead - will have communications work on this.

The province will get the response to the first recommendation (whether the project is a go) done in that quick timeline, but full responses to the other recommendations will likely take longer.

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Note that HC communications is involved, but I haven't gotten the name yet of who our rep is.

The province also highlighted that quarries are a hot issue in the province right now. A private members bill will be tabled in the provincial legislature proposing a moratorium on quarries.

I'll continue to keep you in the loop as this evolves.
Carolyn

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