

Nova Stone Exporters Inc., Quarry Approval White's Cove, Digby County

Issue:

- Proposed quarry in White's Cove, Digby Neck, Digby County.

Key Message:

- An application for a 3.9 ha. was received and approved subject to terms and conditions. Any proposed expansion beyond 4 ha. will trigger the Environmental Assessment process.
- The project will be monitored for compliance with the approval.
- The proponent is communicating with the public via the Community Liaison Committee.

Background:

- In mid February an application was received by the department for an approval to operate a 10 acre quarry (blasting) in White's Cove, Digby Neck, Digby County. The proposed quarry borders a portion of the Bay of Fundy shoreline. The company plans to extract aggregate from the site and ship it to the U.S. via the Bay of Fundy.
- Although the initial application was rejected as it exceeded 4 hectares, therefore requiring an Environmental Assessment, a subsequent revised application for a 3.9 ha. site was received and approved.
- The approval is to construct and operate the 3.9 ha quarry. No approvals were given for wharf or dock facilities which require federal (DFO) approval, and may trigger a federal environmental assessment.
- In addition to standard quarry terms and conditions, conditions were placed on the project requiring DFO approval before blasting commences, in order to protect marine mammals.
- The approval also requires the proponent to inform the community about the project and establish a Community Liaison Committee (CLC). This committee is now meeting regularly.
- The proponent intends to establish a larger (>4. ha.) quarry at the site, and is currently conducting the studies necessary to register the project with the Environmental Assessment Process
- Work around the site to date has involved the drilling of test holes to obtain samples. Although this has occurred outside the designated quarry area, exploratory drilling does not require approval. No quarrying has occurred to date. Tree harvesting is also occurring on the property outside the approved quarry area.
- The community strongly opposes this project and several residents have organized a committee to oppose the project. Letters have been received from across Canada and the U.S. in opposition.
- The company hopes to conduct a test blast this fall in an area approx. 80 ft. x 40 ft. This can only proceed once the company submits plans demonstrating it will meet all DEL requirements and not harm aquatic habitat as per DFO guidelines.

Recommendation / Current Position:

- Although the company can legally operate a quarry within the 4 ha. limitation, any subsequent expansions or additional areas will trigger the Environmental Assessment process.
- Terms and conditions of the existing approval will be monitored for compliance.
- Ensure that the company is communicating openly and effectively via the CLC.

Prepared by: Bob Petrie, District Manager

Phone: (902) 742-8985

Date: September 30, 2002

Time: 2:45 pm

CONFIDENTIAL