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*Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project*  
*Joint Review Panel*  
[www.wpq-jointreview.ca](http://www.wpq-jointreview.ca)

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May 11, 2007

Mark Pearson  
Director General, Strategic Policy and Planning Sector  
Natural Resources Canada  
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room: A7-1  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Mr. Pearson:

On November 5, 2004, the federal Minister of the Environment and the Nova Scotia Minister of Environment and Labour established the Joint Review Panel for the environmental assessment of the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project.

The Panel believes that participation by federal and provincial departments and agencies in the environmental assessment is required to ensure that we collect all necessary information prior to submitting our report to both levels of government. The Panel will be holding public hearings in Digby, Nova Scotia commencing on June 16, 2007.

Accordingly, we request that representatives from Natural Resources Canada appear on Thursday, June 21 and Friday, June 22 to give presentations and to answer questions from the Panel and the hearing participants. The Panel would like the department to present its views on environmental effects associated with the project including comments on the adequacy of the proponent's responses to NRCan comments on the EIS.

Be advised that the Panel has scheduled a hearing session to address hydrogeology issues on June 22. Your department is expected to engage in a detailed discussion of this topic. The Panel specifically requests that your department provide expertise in aqueous geochemistry relating to rock wastes. Information related to the Panel's mandate in assessing the effects of the proposed project that is not concerned with hydrogeology may be delivered in your June 21 presentation.

A representative of your department is asked to contact Debra Myles, Panel Manager, at (613) 957-0626 to schedule presentations on June 21 and 22, 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Fournier, Chair

c.c. Andrew McAllister, Senior Environmental Assessment Officer