

Jardine crushes gravel pit plan

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Jardine crushes gravel pit plan FREDERICTON (Can) – The government has shut down J.D. Irving, Limited's controversial plans for a gravel pit and wharf in Charlotte County. Environment Minister Kim Jardine rejected the application outright because she says it doesn't fit into the area's plans. J.D. Irving, Limited announced in March it wanted to build a wharf in Beaver Harbour to ship sand and gravel from a new pit they were planning near Pennfield. Opposition to the plan was strong. More than 600 people expressed outrage at a public meeting on the project last week. Now the plan is dead. Jardine has rejected the company's application to rezone the land to allow the gravel pit. The minister says 10 years ago the people of the area got together and developed a zoning plan for the area that specifically forbade gravel pits. "I felt in the interest of public choice, in the interest of empowering people, that I would respect that decision that we made 10 years ago and still stick with today," she says. Irving spokesperson Mary Keith says the company is disappointed that plan was shot down even before any studies were done to see if it was environmentally sustainable. "It is our understand that at this point, there is no scientific evidence that would indicate that this is in any way adverse to environment." Keith points out that while the Irving gravel pit was rejected outright, other pits are operating without even going through proper procedures.