

Advice to Minister ☐

Advice to Deputy ☐

Environment and Labour **Briefing Note**

Nova Stone Exporters Inc., Quarry Application Little River, Digby County

Issue:

- Application for approval received by NSDEL to operate a quarry in Little River, Digby County.

Key Message:

- Due to the scale of the proposed activity, in NSDEL's detailed review of the application it was identified that an Environmental Assessment may be necessary. This was confirmed.

Background:

- In mid February an application was received by the department for an approval to operate a 10 acre quarry (blasting) in Little River, Digby County.
- The proposed quarry bordered a portion of the Bay of Fundy shoreline.
- The application was also sent to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), Bedford Institute of Oceanography for comment on the effects of the blast concussion on marine life (i.e. Endangered North Atlantic Right Whale).
- The application was reviewed based on the information that it was under 4 hectares in area, in turn not requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- The application was copied to the Environmental Assessment Branch to ensure that all aspects of the facility were factored into the area calculation
- The comments received from the EA branch stated that an access road, constructed wetland and spillway were not factored into the area, therefore placing the area in excess of the 4 hectare limitation, which would require the proponent to register with EA.

Recommendation / Current Position:

- Although the department did not receive written comments from DFO regarding this issue, April 15, 2002, the application was rejected, based on the evidence that it exceeded 4 ha. and would require the proponent to register the application with the Environmental Assessment office. The proponents disagreed with the 3 options of either, appealing our decision, registering with EA or submitting a new application. The proponents noted that they should be able to change the dimensions of the project as an amendment. This verbal request was denied as it would be a design change.

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Time: 11:30 am