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

Issue:

- Proposal to operate a quarry in Little River, Digby County.

Key Message:

- NSDEL's detailed review of the application identified that the area exceeded 4 ha. and an Environmental Assessment was necessary. The application was rejected. A revised application for 3.9 ha. was received and approved.

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 submitted based on the assumption that it was under 4 hectares in area, in turn not requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- Upon review of the application, it was determined that it exceeded 4 hectares in size; therefore requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- There is a high degree of public concern over this project and inquiries have been received from the public, media and the NDP caucus. In these cases, the process governing quarries and environmental assessment was explained, however specific details of this application were not disclosed.
- On April 23, 2002 the proponent submitted a revised application for a 3.9 hectares operation.
- The proponent has also requested information about the EA process, in anticipation of registering the project to allow for expansion beyond 4 hectares.
- On April 30, 2002, the proponent was notified that an approval was given to construct and operate the quarry. No approvals were given for wharf or dock facilities.

Recommendation / Current Position:

- The revised application was approved and applicable terms and conditions were attached to the approval. Additional conditions were added to the approval:
 - (a) The applicant must received a favourable report from Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding effects on marine mammals.
 - (b) Communication with the public is required at the request of the Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Labour.
 - (c) At the Department's request, a Community Liaison Committee must be established.

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