

PUBLIC HEARING

WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

JOINT REVIEW PANEL

V O L U M E 11

HELD BEFORE: Dr. Robert Fournier (Chair)
Dr. Jill Grant (Member)
Dr. Gunter Muecke (Member)

PLACE HEARD: Digby, Nova Scotia

DATE HEARD: Thursday, June 28, 2007

PRESENTERS: -Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq
Mr. Michael Cox and Ms. Sherry Pictou
-Ms. Janet Larkman
-Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's Association
Mr. Terry Farnsworth
-Freeport Community Development Association
Mr. Roger Outhouse
-Mr. Don Mullins
-Mr. Robert Thibault
-Digby Neck Community Development Association
Mr. Arthur Bull
-Atlantic Canada Chapter, Sierra Club of Cda
Mr. Mark Dittrick

1 presenter for this particular session is Terry Farnsworth,
2 representing the Bay of Fundy Inshore Fishermen's
3 Association.

4 **PRESENTATION BY Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH**

5 Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH: You hear me All
6 right? My name is Terry Farnsworth, a fisherman foremost,
7 and I guess I'm speaking on behalf of the Bay of Fundy
8 Inshore today.

9 Vice-President of Inshore Fishermen's
10 Association for the last 11 years since 1996. I've been
11 involved with issues that affect our community in the
12 fisheries and other developments; process of grass root,
13 non-profit government structure of community-based
14 management, mostly of the ground fisheries.

15 Member of the Local Fixed Gear Council
16 made up of Maritime Fishermen Union and the Bay of Fundy
17 Inshore. Also a Member of the Local Marine Resource Centre,
18 Cornwallis, which looks at the many things like mapping,
19 information of local renewable resource and non-renewable
20 resources in the area.

21 Many workshops on the area of concern to
22 ask questions... Are we are prepared for oil spills in case
23 of collisions?... And countless other area of concerns of
24 the needs for sustainability in the big picture.

25 Many workshops on the ecosystem

1 approach, the bulk on the writing of the rules. Terms of
2 reference fall short in timing for area protection.

3 To share stories with grass-root people
4 from around the world who have been affected socially,
5 economically, culturally by international interests has been
6 a feeling and robbery and invasion. With these people I
7 have met, I have put a pin on the global map to say this is
8 where I live. Each student presented(sic) either a nation
9 or country who also visited me at the Digby Wharf as a
10 backgrounder. This merely scratches the surface by
11 community involvement.

12 For the amount of issues that are
13 affecting our community, all at the same time, I find it
14 very overwhelming, to say the least. In dealing the
15 accumulative effect and combined effects like which was
16 mentioned in the Guidelines... This part is mentioned, and
17 are pleased that it is mentioned.

18 For some of us, we've had the unpleasant
19 experiences of putting the dots together that affect us all
20 in dealing with the pros and cons with conflict of interest.

21 The process of defining community for the fisheries of
22 inshore fixed gear turned out to be geographic from Clare,
23 French Shore, Islands, Digby Necks, all the way to the head
24 of the Bay.

25 That's a pretty large community, a

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services

(613) 564-2727

(416) 861-8720

1 pretty large success, with realizing how much we are
2 connected, affiliating with Maritime Fishermen Union. We
3 still are there. We haven't gone away. A lot of us have
4 sold out, or I should say what I'm saying here, a lot of us
5 could have sold out, but though if we did, we'd be selling
6 us out, or the community.

7 Are we stupid for not selling out to the
8 corporate agenda? Perhaps so, in some people's eyes, but it
9 feels good trying to do the right thing.

10 Now, getting the rock quarry, I want to
11 start off by saying I have lived on the Island on Digby Neck
12 in numerous places. There is hardly not a place along the
13 coast that I haven't fished from below the Island to the
14 Minas Basin at the head of the Bay. This is the life
15 whereas you get to see both sides of the North Mountain.

16 Oftentimes, when passing by, I look in
17 from the Bay to look at the house where my grandmother
18 lived, which is still standing; the place where my Uncle
19 Darrell and Aunt Tina was murdered by a neighbour boy, who
20 had seriously mental problems, of Whale Cove. I am grateful
21 to the people who bought the house, and restored it. They
22 invited our family to share the life in memories of the
23 Bunker family.

24 As a community, it was heartwarming, to
25 me, as a community; a community pull together with much

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services

(613) 564-2727

(416) 861-8720

1 respect. As we took our last ride, the school buses and
2 people were parked on the side of the road with heads bowed.
3 It wasn't about Centreville versus Little River. We were a
4 community who had children who went to the same school.
5 Give me a minute. I could see cars as far as the eye could
6 see behind.

7 Many would be interested to know it was
8 my grandmother's house, or my grandmother's mother, I
9 believe, who brought education to this area back when we had
10 little schools all over the county. This little house in
11 Whale Cove holds a lot of history.

12 This North Mountain is also viewed by
13 whale-watching vessels who go up and down the coast, even
14 from Digby. Along the shores, fishers' setting herring
15 nets, halibut and dogfish trawls. There's hardly a place
16 you can't set gear, but it could change an awful lot if it
17 becomes a restricted area.

18 Depending on nature, there is no way of
19 knowing what she'll bring. It's not something you can
20 minimize or exclude. Some years, schools of blackfish tuna;
21 other whale species of water and air; the variety is
22 breathtaking on many accounts. Don't know what they are
23 called. Some years, along the coast, the whales breach and
24 fool around very close to shore. On a still, quiet night,
25 it's amazing how sound travels.

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services

(613) 564-2727

(416) 861-8720

1 When at my uncle's cottage under the
2 steep hill on the opposite side of the Island road, pointing
3 away from the Bay of Fundy, I could hear them breaching,
4 splashing, and blowing, making noises in the Bay.

5 Life at sea and coastal sites are beyond
6 anything you can minimize(sic). Steering your boat with a
7 small bird sitting on the bill of your hat, or shoulder,
8 either make you feel very ridiculous or connected.

9 The path we find on the water to get out
10 of the rough waters a lot of times are close along the
11 shore. The tides and weather interactions fisherman
12 understand in the Bay are nothing to mess with. My worry in
13 this area of a rock quarry would become as a restricted area
14 to fishing activity, or passage that we are traditionally
15 accustomed to in a sense of place where we always knew as
16 our place.

17 Whether I'm currently fishing out of
18 Digby, Centreville, Freeport, Tiverton is home to me. Many
19 tell us we have such wonderful place. Please take good care
20 of it.

21 There are beginning to be a lot of
22 factors about such an operation. There are those who feel
23 because it would be on the back side of the mountain, no one
24 would ever notice. I'm sure if you could hear the train
25 whistle below across St. Mary's Bay years ago, which is

1 usually a sign of southeaster, much will be heard up and
2 down the coast over the mountain.

3 The migration of deer and other critters
4 along the North Mountain go to the Island. Some years more
5 deer show up on the Island than on the Neck. Whatever the
6 dream is, what will the cost of sacrifice to others be in
7 order to create these 30-some jobs? It is unfortunate that
8 the noose is on Digby Neck. My aunt and uncle also live in
9 Digby Neck at Little River.

10 On the Island, a lot has moved to Digby,
11 and a lot has stayed. It's also disturbing to think about
12 the amount of water it would take to wash the rock, and
13 where will this water go. With a ripple effect of problems
14 that would occur, my sense of this place being our place
15 would be lost.

16 It reminds me when someone's out of
17 firewood, you start to burn your furniture. The problems or
18 fate should not rest with rock quarries in this area. What
19 kind of Government do we have, anyway? I don't think it is
20 very Canadian or politically fair for so much to be hitting
21 us at the same time.

22 Currently, there are Public Hearings
23 about the possible loss of the ferry between Digby and Saint
24 John; also hearings about no doctors for Digby Hospital; a
25 Digby Wharf that's falling down; clam flats shut down. This

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services

(613) 564-2727

(416) 861-8720

1 can't be a coincidence. Something's wrong with this
2 picture.

3 Why should our schools and
4 municipalities be at the hands of bribery. I believe in
5 supporting my community, and don't deprive economics or
6 jobs. It's not the Irvings or the Bilcons of New Jersey
7 that should be running our country.

8 The stop signs along the coastal roads,
9 to me, says the thing to me, no to the rock quarry, and for
10 a good reason; because that's local knowledge. I do not
11 want to debate that, or be in a conflict, but want the
12 opportunity to say no. I do not believe I can trust someone
13 with foreign interests, or there's a conflict of interest, I
14 don't go around for signatures. Everyone can speak for
15 themselves.

16 But for the most part, I haven't heard
17 very many fishermen say they want this rock quarry that fish
18 their own vessels. I don't want to be in a position whereas
19 I can neither be for or against something. It sounds a
20 little like the Tory Government who says, "Trust me,
21 everything will be okay". It sounds a little too much like
22 I don't have a vote. We are not fish. Fish don't vote.

23 I feel that access to information on
24 behalf statistics should not have been for international
25 interests and government groups to use to consume or

1 undermine communities. This is exactly why we need an area
2 protection plan. For years now, we've been trying to play
3 catch-up as the global impacts unfold our communities.

4 Lately, I've been feeling almost like
5 all the meetings over the past 11 years have been for
6 nothing, but after hearing others speak as the Ecology
7 Action Centre people, like Jennifer Graham, and others, it's
8 uplifting.

9 As a fishing community of mostly fixed
10 gear, inshore fishermen, we have problem in seconding a
11 motion for area protection. The struggles with principles,
12 ethics, conservation has been very confusing. While we have
13 stream restoration, not far from it, we have a disaster.

14 To project to the media these false
15 images, we know the pro and con games that are being played
16 by corporate interests.

17 Respectfully, I would like to thank the
18 groups that worked with our communities over the past great
19 number of years, the many organizations, community networks,
20 Western Valley Development Association, environmental
21 groups. To name them, it would be impossible. Friends from
22 all over the world of grass roots, like fisher people, to
23 thank them all. It's been certainly a lot of hard work, a
24 lot of time out of my family life, but no one leaves
25 brother, or sister, or family when you're making a stand for

A.S.A.P. Reporting Services

(613) 564-2727

(416) 861-8720

1 what is right.

2 I'm also grateful to the young people
3 who contribute and share their education skills in a good
4 cause. Also the elders, who share their knowledge, and
5 input and support in their retiring years. We all have much
6 to share when we put it into one body on the same page.

7 Thank you to the Panel. I would not be
8 able to deal with your task in the form of questioning or
9 reviews. And thank you to Paul for reading my letter to the
10 President of our Association. I've been so busy, I
11 completely forgot about that letter of our position taken.

12 We've worked hard building structure in
13 our community, and to put people in the driver's seat, and
14 to add, to no cost to the taxpayers. All non-profit groups.
15 It shows how many serious problems and challenges we've had
16 to face, and are continuing to face in all respects of
17 life.

18 This is my presentation. To add, Mr.
19 Speaker, I presented my photo album. I feel that pictures
20 say a lot. There's another larger picture. It's a small
21 hand-line boat. That's myself. It just shows how
22 magnificent this whale is compared to the size of my boat;
23 that we've, many times, learned to work around one another,
24 without being in the way of that whale.

25 And in my photo album, it shows where

1 I've been tagging fish, and involved with science, which
2 I've learned to... From my past experience, I have lots of
3 confidence in science. I attended oceanography meetings on
4 our stocks in the Bay. Our science proved what the local
5 knowledge was saying, yet they continue to fish the offshore
6 quotas in the Bay, and now it's in worse shape than ever.
7 They're still dragging there.

8 And when you look at all that makes up
9 our communities; music and the smiles on... And involvement
10 of young people being involved with these projects of
11 "embetterment", you know, go to "embetterment" our
12 communities.

13 I find it totally amazing that there has
14 been so much work; that the problem is it's so hard in these
15 times to get Government recognition, and even the
16 Municipalities doesn't know the tremendous amount of work
17 that we've been doing in our communities, and the tremendous
18 amount of people input.

19 And I think I better stop right there,
20 'cause I did have a presentation that was 15 or 16 pages
21 long, and I cut her in half, but for whatever it's worth,
22 the process of the liaison committee, I didn't feel that it
23 was a safe place to express myself. It was something that
24 you could neither be for or against. I had a lot of
25 problems, and so didn't(sic) a lot of other people.

1 So this is not... I'm hoping today that
2 I'm not attacked for my efforts. I'm not real big with big
3 words, and understanding some of the language, but we have
4 to learn to talk the common language that everyone
5 understands, and I'm going to stop right there, and leave it
6 to you, Mr. Chair.

7 **PRESENTATION BY Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH QUESTIONS FROM THE**
8 **PANE**

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr.
10 Farnsworth. As you know, you've been attending these
11 meetings, and we've been hearing from fishermen throughout
12 the meetings, and in some ways, it's not surprising that
13 lobster fishermen, whose fishery seems to be okay... Maybe
14 it's not as great as it has been, but okay... Might not be
15 interested in the quarry, but from what we've heard over the
16 last week or so, is that the ground fishermen have been hard
17 hit.

18 And you're a ground fisherman, and yet
19 you're not supporting the quarry. I wonder. It would seem
20 that one might say that you and your group would be the ones
21 most interested in the quarry, since the fishery has
22 declined over the last little bit. Can you explain that?

23 Mr. TERRY FARNSWORTH: Yes. I was out
24 west in the middle '80s. I was foreman setting up pump
25 jacks in the oilfield for engineering, and shortly after