

# PUBLIC HEARING

## WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

### JOINT REVIEW PANEL

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V O L U M E 10

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

PLACE HEARD: Digby, Nova Scotia

DATE HEARD: Wednesday, June 27, 2007

PRESENTERS: -Lobster Fishing Area 34 Management Board  
Mr. Wayne Spinney  
-Ms. Heather Jenkins  
-Dr. Micheal Corbett  
-Clean Annapolis River Project  
Andy Sharpe/Judith Cabrita/Ann Goddart  
-Ms. Marilyn Stanton  
-Ms. Tina Little  
-Mr. Ashraf Mahtab  
-Ecology Action Centre  
Ms. Jennifer Graham/Ms. Gretchen Fitzgerald  
-Mr. Bob Morsches

1 intent to take your document to the Board of directors as  
2 soon as you finish here today and have more input and firm  
3 it up a bit before you email it to the Panel?

4 Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: That's correct.

5 There will be a follow-up from us.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Miss, ma'am, your name,  
7 please.

8 Ms. MARY KENNAELLY: Oh, sorry. Mary  
9 Kennaelly.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

11 Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: Our intent is to pass  
12 this on to the Board, and if there's additions or deletions,  
13 we will be passing that on to you.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Spinney.  
15 Thank you very much for your  
16 presentation.

17 Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: Thank you, all.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'd like to move to the  
19 next presentation now, to Heather Jenkins. Is there a  
20 Heather Jenkins here? Thank you.

21 --- Pause

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please identify  
23 yourself and then begin.

24 **PRESENTATION BY Ms. HEATHER JENKINS**

25 Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: My name is Heather

1 Jenkins. Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

2 My name is Heather Jenkins. I live in  
3 Digby and operate a small seasonal bed and breakfast there.

4 Many of my guests drive out to the neck, either to whale  
5 watch, enjoy the trails, balancing rock, birds, seals,  
6 coastal vistas, or they just enjoy the clean, empty space.  
7 My European guests especially love the quiet, love the  
8 space.

9 You have a piece of heaven here. Do you  
10 realize what you have? A frequent typical comment.

11 Bilcon proposes to blast, extract,  
12 crush, and transport 40,000 tonnes of basalt rock a week  
13 from Whit Point Beach, Digby Neck. That is 120,000 tonnes  
14 of rock a year, times 50 years, is going to be blasted out  
15 of a 120-hectare quarry located on an approximate two-  
16 kilometre wide spit of land, and Mr. Buxton says that  
17 because there will be buffers of vegetation the tourists  
18 won't see anything.

19 For 50 years, tourists are not going to  
20 notice, as they drive by, that tonnes and tonnes of rock are  
21 being blasted, dug out, crushed, trucked over the land, and  
22 shipped over the water.

23 For 50 years, the residents of Digby  
24 Neck won't see anything because there will be buffers of  
25 vegetation, and they won't hear much because noise-reducing

1 materials will be used. The hoppers and the dump trucks are  
2 to be rubber lined.

3 Of course that will have a limited  
4 effect, once there is a layer of rock in a truck or in a  
5 hopper. Then rock will be falling on rock.

6 I am trying to visualize the size of a  
7 hole that 120,000 tonnes of rock times 50 years makes. I've  
8 tried to imagine standing on the edge, standing on the rim  
9 of this hole, because Mr. Buxton says that the site will be  
10 returned to its natural state at the end of the 50 years.

11 Cigarette manufacturers would still like  
12 us to believe that smoking has no influence on lung disease  
13 and lung cancer. For years, the owners of the coal mines  
14 assured the miners that their lung disease and emphysema had  
15 nothing to do with breathing in coal dust.

16 I am thinking back to years ago when I  
17 was a young single parent, living in a housing complex.  
18 There were lots of young, single mothers. A fellow jokingly  
19 said to me that a guy could do very well for himself  
20 cruising around in a fancy car on Friday night.

21 I feel like I did then; easily  
22 exploited, wary, and vulnerable.

23 This quarry has the potential to destroy  
24 all the attributes that make the neck a unique and desirable  
25 tourist destination, and a desirable and unique place to

1 live. It is very possible that an interpretive and/or  
2 discovery centre of some kind will be built somewhere on the  
3 Neck. It will be our area's Hopewell Rock, Peggy's Cove,  
4 Cabot Trail. It will put us on the map, and it will create  
5 family-sustaining jobs, without killing the very geography  
6 that provides the jobs.

7 My youngest daughter, Paula Fedirchuck,  
8 is in Seattle, Washington. I want to share with you some of  
9 her thoughts.

10 She is a senior environmental civil  
11 engineer with Herrera Environmental Consultants, 2200 6th  
12 Avenue, Suite 1100, Seattle Washington.

13 One of the hot issues with the quarries  
14 around Puget Sound is the widespread contamination to  
15 surface soils. I'm sure they, Bilcon, did an air model  
16 study, I don't know if one was done, to show where future  
17 dust will travel.

18 Think of that dust not only as a  
19 nuisance, but potentially contaminated. For certain, there  
20 will be dust, and rubber-lined dump trucks and hoppers won't  
21 stop it.

22 As a retired nurse, my concern with the  
23 dust is for the babies, children and elders, sufferers of  
24 asthma, bronchiolitis, COPD, congestive failure as well as a  
25 myriad other health concerns that will be exacerbated by 50

1 years of breathing dust-laden air.

2 Paula asked her colleagues for their  
3 input. My mom is very concerned about a proposed aggregate  
4 quarry near where she lives in Digby, Nova Scotia.

5 Her main concerns are the impact due to  
6 blasting, increased marine traffic and overall irreparable  
7 destruction of what is currently pristine coastal land.

8 Mark Eubank, also with Herrera, a  
9 principal engineer, highly respected, replied, "There was a  
10 big brouhaha over mining a deep pit adjacent to the  
11 shoreline for sand and gravel on a site on Moray Island here  
12 in our own backyard a few years ago. To my knowledge, the  
13 mining never went through due to the environmental impacts,  
14 some of which had to do with threatening the ground  
15 aquifer."

16 I looked up the Moray Island project  
17 that Mark refers to, and although the technical speak caused  
18 my eyes to glaze, I saw several remarkable similarities  
19 between Moray Island and the White Point Beach site.

20 The proponent proposed a deep gravel  
21 mine on Moray Island, a coastal site, as is White Point.  
22 Local groups were concerned that the project could  
23 contaminate the fresh water supply, would increase the  
24 threat to already threatened whales and salmon, and that it  
25 was a project contrary to Senate-legislated efforts to

1 restore the overall quality of the coastal region.

2                   Digby Neck already has a good drinking  
3 water supply, whales and an inshore fishery, and a pristine  
4 shore that doesn't yet need legislation to restore it if we  
5 stop this quarry.

6                   Last year I had a guest and his wife  
7 stay with me for several days. Their last morning, we were  
8 lingering over coffee and chatting, and he asked what I knew  
9 about this proposed quarry "because, you know", he said,  
10 "you all have to stop it."

11                   He went on to explain many reasons why  
12 it was a bad thing, and that he was very sceptical about the  
13 jobs that Bilcon is promising.

14                   Most of the work is very specialized,  
15 and he doubted those trades exist in this area and that the  
16 company probably doesn't have the time or the local  
17 resources to do the necessary on-site training.

18                   He spoke for some time, very articulate,  
19 very passionate. I wish he could speak before this Panel.

20                   Of all the things he said, the one that  
21 has stayed with me is about the blasting. He said that no  
22 matter how skilled the operator, blasting cannot always be  
23 predicted or controlled, that it can open underground  
24 fissures and cracks, and that these cracks and fissures in a  
25 coastal environment can allow salt water to mingle with and

1 contaminate the fresh groundwater.

2 This can never be fixed, never reversed.

3 Mark Eubanks refers to the threat to the aquifer on Moray  
4 Island, one of the reasons that project was rejected.

5 This year an ecologist and his wife were  
6 one of my first guests. The three of us had a good chat  
7 over coffee, as becoming the norm.

8 Early visitors are a delight, as they  
9 are not in a rush. The conversation came around to the  
10 quarry and the "Stop the Quarry" signs he had seen.

11 I explained a little about the situation  
12 and was surprised when he stressed that there is always two  
13 sides to an argument and that the economic side should be  
14 considered.

15 He was not familiar with the White Point  
16 project and asked the purpose of the quarry. I explained it  
17 was to provide gravel which would eventually pave roads in  
18 New Jersey.

19 "Pave roads in New Jersey", he said. "I  
20 thought you were going to say the Space Arm or new medicine.  
21 No, no. It is not worth the risk to the environment to  
22 pave roads, and they are not even your own roads."

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. To you  
25 Gunter.

1 PRESENTATION BY Ms. HEATHER JENKINS ESTIONS ROM THE  
2 PANE

3 Ms. JILL GRANT: Ms. Jenkins, can you  
4 give us an idea of how far your business is from the quarry  
5 site?

6 Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: My business is in  
7 Digby, so it's quite far, and I've given a lot of thought  
8 before I've come today as to whether or not it would impact  
9 my business.

10 It would impact my business as a tourist  
11 business, but I personally would probably be okay because I  
12 have a beautiful home in a beautiful location, fortunately  
13 for me, nowhere near the quarry. So I could sell my  
14 property.

15 But it will impact my business. Tourism  
16 is predicted to really boom because of the baby boomers, but  
17 the baby boomers are a very specific tourist. They don't  
18 just go anywhere. They want to have experiential tourist  
19 destinations.

20 So they won't just come, no matter how  
21 beautiful my B&B is. They're going to come because there  
22 are things to do in the area, and they almost all go to the  
23 Neck.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Buxton?

25 Mr. PAUL BUXTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1 I don't have any questions.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Any additional  
3 questions? Yes, Mr. Mullin.

4 **PRESENTATION BY Ms. HEATHER JENKINS QUESTIONS FROM THE**  
5 **P B I**

6 Mr. DON MULLIN: Don Mullin.

7 As a retired nurse, do you have any  
8 concerns over the fact that a baseline air quality study was  
9 not done at the Whites Point site against which you can  
10 evaluate future changes that might impact on health?

11 Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: Well, again, as a  
12 retired nurse, yes, because I have worked in the desert. I  
13 worked in Saudi Arabia, so I know the quality of air there  
14 is one of the major contributing factors to lung disease  
15 with the clientele in that country.

16 The air is never cleaned because  
17 sometimes for four years there's no rainfall, and many of  
18 the doctors that I have worked with have identified that as  
19 the number 1 issue for lung disease in that country.

20 So I can speak to it from that point of  
21 view, but I mean, certainly not as an expert.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: It's a form of  
23 silicosis, is it?

24 Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: Yes, exactly. It's  
25 like breathing in sandpaper.