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Highlights and Action Items
Whites Point Inter-Agency EA Meeting
March 31, 2003

The meeting was chaired by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and attended by representatives of DFO (Habitat and NWPA), Industry Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Nova Scotia Environment and Labour and Environment Canada.

Highlights:

- Federal Coordination Request has been sent out by DFO to Environment Canada, NRCan, Transport Canada and Industry Canada. Recipients anticipate no problems meeting April 10 deadline.
- Comprehensive Study is the most likely federal EA track, as opposed to a Panel Review.
- Provincially, quarries in excess of 4 Ha require a Class I environmental assessment.
- Will need a MOU (or similar but less formal agreement) to harmonize the two EA processes. CEA Act requires public comment on such an agreement (ss.58(3)), if signed by the Minister.
- Scope needs to be developed jointly by NS and RA(s) (in consultation with expert FAs). Draft Scope will be made available for public comment.
- DFO will act as Lead RA, and establish the Public Registry.
- Public participation plans still unspecified, but will include public comment on draft Scope and MOU. Public reaction to Scope and MOU may influence EA track decision.
- CEAA will continue to assist with coordination among the various agencies and the proponent.
- Preparation of CSR will likely be delegated to the proponent.
- A tentative schedule for the EA is recommended, based on expected duration of the various steps of the process.
- Need to coordinate communications. All parties to be advised before any announcements, news releases, etc. Need for formal communications plan undecided at this time.

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- Proponent needs to be made aware of what will be expected of them (delegation, official languages).

Summary of Action Items:

- DFO to prepare a draft scope and circulate it to the group for comment.
- NSDEL to circulate their recently released sector guide for pits and quarries.
- CEAA to provide DFO with a copy of the Deep Panuke Scope.
- NSDEL to prepare a draft MOU, or similar harmonization agreement, and circulate it to the group for comment.
- CEAA to provide NSDEL with a copy of the Deep Panuke MOU.
- CEAA to draft a tentative schedule for the EA and circulate it to the group for comment.
- All parties to identify communications contacts and advise other members of the group.
- CEAA to contact proponent re: expectations (e.g. delegation and official languages).