

Environmental Assessment - Nova Stone Exporters Quarry on Digby Neck

Issue:

- Nova Stone Exporters Quarry - Little River, Digby Neck, Digby County

Key Message:

- If the proposed quarry is more than 4 hectares (ha) in size, the project will be required to register as a Class 1 Undertaking pursuant to the Environmental Assessment Regulations

Background:

- On February 18, 2002, the Yarmouth Office of the Monitoring and Compliance Division received an Industrial Approval application for a 10 acre (4.05 ha) quarry in the Whites Cove area near the community of Little River on Digby Neck, Digby County.
- On April 5, 2002, the application was forwarded to the Environmental Assessment Branch to determine if an environmental assessment was required. Staff determined that the size of the quarry site was 4.05 ha plus an additional area for an emergency spillway and constructed wetland.
- As the quarry area presented would extend beyond 4 ha, the Environmental Assessment Branch informed the Yarmouth Office that an environmental assessment would be required. The Environmental Assessment Regulations required any pit or quarry in excess of 4 ha in area primarily engaged in the extraction of ordinary stone, building or construction stone, sand, gravel or ordinary soil to register as a Class 1 Undertaking.
- It is anticipated that the company will resubmit a new application for under 4 ha. If the application is less than 4 ha, the Environmental Assessment Regulations would not apply.
- The company has indicated that they eventually plan to quarry an area of approximately 80 ha but are only registering the initial phase of the project.

Recommendation / Current Position:

- If the company resubmits their application for under 4 ha, the company will require an Industrial Approval. If the applicant intends to expand the operation beyond 4 ha, the expansion will require an environmental assessment review including public input.

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Date: April 16, 2002
Time: 9:30