

From: Jeffrey, Barry [Dartmouth]
Sent: December 4, 2002 10:40 AM
To: Travers, Ian [Dartmouth]
Cc: Pellerin, Barb [Dartmouth]
Subject: Weekly highlight

Ian,

Proposed highlight for approval.

Environmental Assessment of Digby Neck Quarry and Marine Terminal

On December 3rd, EC met with federal and provincial authorities to discuss a Nova Stone proposal to expand a quarry and construct a marine terminal at Whites Point, Little River, Digby Neck. The quarry would be opened at a rate of approximately 4 ha/year over a 30-50 year period while the terminal would accommodate 40-50 shipments/year by a vessel over 40,000 gross tonnes. The proponent has already secured approval from the provincial government for a 3.9 ha quarry at the same site. The approved proposal, which was not subject to environmental assessment (EA), has been a source of considerable public controversy.

Available information on the proposed expansion is preliminary in nature but it appears that both a federal and provincial EA is required. The federal EA would be triggered by the need for a *Navigable Waters Protection Act* authorization. Other federal triggers could relate to the need for an explosives magazine or for disposal at sea. Based on the size of the marine terminal, it is likely that the federal EA must be in the form of a comprehensive study involving decision-making by the Minister of the Environment. The merits of a joint panel review were also discussed. A meeting with the proponent is being arranged to help establish next steps (Contact: Barry Jeffrey 426-4633)