

Environmental Assessment - Nova Stone Exporter Inc.'s Proposed Expansion of Whites Point Quarry at Little River, Digby County

Issue:

- Status of Environmental Assessment - Proposed expansion of quarry operation and development of marine terminal at Whites Point Quarry, Little River, Digby County.

Key Message:

- The company will be required to undergo a provincial environmental assessment including a public review period, should they decide to expand their current approved operation.
- A federal environmental assessment is also likely for this project due to impacts on fish habitat and navigable waters. We will work with the federal agencies to coordinate the federal and provincial EA processes.
- A coordinated provincial/federal assessment would allow all parties to use one process, thereby reducing red-tape. It would also allow the proponent to participate in one process with one document. Such participation would be consistent with the CCME Sub-agreement on Environmental Assessment, to which DEL is a signatory.

Background:

- An Approval was issued for the present 3.9 hectare quarry operation on April 30, 2002.
- The company has indicated that they propose to expand their operations, including the development of a marine terminal.
- The life of the proposed quarry is expected to be 30 to 50 years. Approximately 10 acres of quarry will be opened each year.
- All aggregate produced at the quarry will be shipped by water. Shipment will involve approximately 40 to 50 shipments per year by bulk carrier.
- A 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 is considered a Class 1 Undertaking and is required to register for Environmental Assessment.
- A federal environmental assessment is also likely for this project due to impacts on fish habitat and navigable waterways.
- Local opposition to this quarry and marine terminal is concerned with impacts on quality of life, water quality, tourism, whales and the fishery.

Recommendation / Current Position:

- A provincial EA is required if the company proposes to expand its currently approved quarry operation. A federal EA will also likely be required. Our position is that a joint federal/provincial EA should be pursued and this would be consistent with the CCME Sub-agreement on EA, to which DEL is a signatory.

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Date: January 14, 2003
Time: 3:00 pm

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