
News Release

Canada and Nova Scotia Establish Joint Review Panel for the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project

HALIFAX – November 5, 2004 – The Honourable Stéphane Dion, federal Minister of the Environment, and Kerry Morash, Nova Scotia Minister of Environment and Labour, have jointly established a three-member panel to review a proposal from Bilcon of Nova Scotia, Corporation for a basalt quarry and a marine terminal at Whites Point, Digby County. The panel members are: Dr. Robert O. Fournier (Chair), Dr. Jill Grant, and Dr. Gunter Muecke. Biographical information on each of the panel members can be found on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency Web site mentioned below.

The panel was established on the basis of an agreement signed by the Ministers and made public today. The agreement, establishing the panel, sets out the rules for conducting the joint review process, the procedures for appointing panel members and the panel's terms of reference. The full text of the Agreement can be found on the Web sites of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca or Nova Scotia Environment and Labour at www.gov.ns.ca/enla.

"This agreement establishes a single, cooperative environmental assessment and is in keeping with the federal Speech from the Throne that calls for a unified and more effective environmental assessment process in Canada," said Mr. Dion. "The environmental assessment by a joint review panel will address the potential effects of this project on the environment and the community. It will provide many opportunities for the public to express their views on those effects."

The proposed quarry is projected to take place on 120 hectares of land. The operations are expected to be year-round with approximately 40,000 tonnes of aggregate produced for ship loading each week, totalling two million tonnes per year.

"The public, industry and governments all play an important role in making environmental assessment work," said Mr. Morash. "This Agreement will guide us through a thorough review of the proposal for Whites Point and ensure that communities are heard."

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency administers a Participant Funding Program that supports individuals and non-profit organizations interested in participating in certain types of environmental assessments. A funding program will soon be established for the review of this proposal. Additional information will be posted on the Web site of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Nova Scotia Environment and Labour will also release for public comment the draft guidelines for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

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The Agreement is also available on request from the following centres:

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 1801 Hollis St., Suite 200 Halifax, NS	Nova Scotia Environment and Labour 5151 Terminal Rd., 5th floor Halifax, NS
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Nova Scotia Environment and Labour Yarmouth District Office 13 First St. Yarmouth, NS	Annapolis Royal Branch Library Town Hall 285 St. George St. Annapolis Royal, NS
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Isaiah W. Wilson Memorial Library 84 Warwick St. Digby, NS	Clean Nova Scotia 126 Portland Street Dartmouth, NS
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Ecology Action Centre
Suite 31
1568 Argyle St.
Halifax, NS

For more information, media may call:

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This news release and other information about the project are also available on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Web site at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca and the Web site of Nova Scotia Environment and Labour at www.gov.ns.ca/enla .