

News Release

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project Joint Review Panel Announce Public Meetings and Publish Operational Procedures

HALIFAX, December 2, 2004 – The joint review panel studying the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal project in Digby County invites the public to attend public meetings where their views will be sought on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Guidelines. Once finalized, the EIS Guidelines will identify the issues that will be included in the environmental report which the proponent, Bilcon of Nova Scotia, Corporation, will be asked to prepare and submit to the panel for public review.

These scoping meetings are part of the public participation process that began November 10, 2004 with the release of the draft EIS guidelines for public comment. The meetings will take place from January 6-9, 2005. The proceedings of each meeting will be recorded in order to provide transcripts for inclusion in the public registry. The times and locations for the scoping meetings as follows:

January 6: Digby Neck Consolidated School, Sandy Cove, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

January 7: Digby Regional High School (cafeteria), Digby, 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

January 8: Horton High School (cafeteria), Wolfville, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

January 9: Meteghan Fire Hall, Meteghan, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

In addition to participating in the scoping meetings, the public will have until January 21, 2005, to provide written comments on the draft guidelines to the panel manager at the address listed below.

The joint review panel requests that individuals and organizations, wishing to make a presentation at the scoping meetings, register in advance with the panel manager, Steve Chapman, at 613-957-0294 (call collect). Members of the public who are not making presentations are welcome to attend these meetings.

The draft EIS Guidelines are available on the Web sites of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca) and Nova Scotia Environment and Labour (www.gov.ns.ca/enla/eis/ca) or by contacting the panel manager:

Steve Chapman, Panel Manager
Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project - Joint Review Panel
PO Box 486 C.R.O

Halifax NS B3J 2R7
E-mail: Comments@WPQ-JointReview.ca

The joint review panel also released today operational procedures for the conduct of the scoping meetings. The procedures are intended to assist all those wishing to participate in the scoping meetings so that the meetings take place in a fair and equitable manner, with maximum cooperation and courtesy. The operational procedures can be viewed on the Web site of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca .

The proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project is projected to take place on 150 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.

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For more information, media may call:

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Other information about the project is 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 .