

News Release

Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Joint Review Panel Announces Public Hearings

Halifax, May 1, 2007 – The Joint Review Panel for the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Project today announced that public hearings will begin on Saturday, June 16, 2007 at the Digby Pines Conference Centre in Digby, Nova Scotia. The Panel expects to conduct hearings over a two week period.

Groups or individuals interested in making a presentation at the hearings are asked to reserve a date and time by contacting the Panel Secretariat at 902-564-2759. A schedule listing the order of registered participants will be available on the opening day of hearings.

The Panel gave careful consideration to hearing location and believes that it is important to remain in the project area for the public hearings. The Panel has therefore confirmed Digby Pines as the venue for the duration of hearings.

Panel Chair Dr. Robert Fournier said hearings will be an excellent opportunity for the public to provide input on the implications of the project, before the Panel submits its findings to Federal and Provincial Environment Ministers.

“We want to ensure that we consider the views and analyses of stakeholders. Public hearings provide a forum for continued input from the community.”

Public hearings will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16 with opening remarks by the Panel and a presentation by the project proponent Bilcon of Nova Scotia. The presentation by Bilcon will be followed by questions from the Panel. Presentations by government departments and agencies will be heard throughout the first week of hearings and interested parties will then present over the remainder of the hearing schedule. The Panel will reserve time between presentations to ask questions and allow others in attendance to do the same. The last day of the hearing schedule is reserved for presenters with closing remarks.

The Panel has prepared operational procedures for the conduct of the public hearings which can be found on the Panel's website at www.wpq-jointreview.ca or by contacting the Panel Secretariat at 902-564-2759.

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