PUBLIC HEARING

WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

JOINT REVIEW PANEL

VOLUME 8

HELD BEFORE: Dr. Robert Fournier (Chair)
Dr. Jill Grant (Member)
Dr. Gunter Muecke (Member)

PLACE HEARD: Digby, Nova Scotia

DATE HEARD: Monday, June 25, 2007

PRESENTERS:
-Bilcon of Nova Scotia
Ms. Susan Sherk
-Nova Scotia Tourism, Culture and Heritage
Mr. Robert Ogilvie and Ms. Darlene MacDonald
-Municipality of the District of Digby
Warden James Thurber
-Town of Annapolis Royal
Mayor John Kinsella
-Municipality of the County of Annapolis
Warden Peter Newton
-Mr. Michael Hayden
-Ms. Jan Hermiston
-Paradise Women’s Institute
Ms. Phyllis Nixon and Ms. Kim Grimard
-Mr. Clytie Foster
WARDEN JAMES THURBER: Mine might be complicated. My name is James Thurber, T-h-u-r-b-e-r, and I'm the Warden for the Municipality of the District of Digby.

MAYOR JOHN KINSELLA: Good afternoon. My name is John Kinsella, I'm the Mayor of Annapolis Royal. That's K-i-n-s-e-l-l-a.

WARDEN PETER NEWTON: Good afternoon. My name is Peter Newton, and I'm the Warden for Annapolis County. Newton is N-e-w-t-o-n.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Gentlemen, would you like to begin? Maybe we'll start with you, Mr. Thurber, and go in this direction.

WARDEN JAMES THURBER: Okay. Thank you very much, Panel.
As I stated, my name is James Thurber, and I am the Warden for the Municipality of District of Digby. I am here today on behalf of the Council of the Municipality, and on behalf of the majority of the citizens of the Municipality who have told us that they do now want a quarry on Digby Neck.

As a Council elected by the people of the Municipality of the District of Digby, we have supported our citizens in their opposition to this project.

While it may not be quantifiable, there needs to be recognition of the fact that this project can negatively impact the quality of life of the residents of Digby Neck and Islands.

This project is very much at odds with the promotion of Digby Neck and Islands as an eco-tourism destination.

As elected Municipal officials, it is our responsibility to promote and protect the long-term economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the Municipality.

Often, Council is faced with making a decision or taking a stand on issues that, while they may appear to be good for the economy of the Municipality, they may not be so good for other areas of the economy, for the environment, or for the social aspect of the community.
What may, at first glance, be seen as something that could have a positive impact on the economy of the area may, in the long term, have a devastating negative impact on the environment, or on the quality of life of the citizens of the community.

In July of 2006, on behalf of Council, I wrote to Ms. Debra Myles, Panel Manager of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency expressing concerns regarding the following aspects of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Blasting. The Proponent has indicated that binoculars will be used to determine if the mammals or birds are present before blasting takes place. The use of binoculars is not a reliable method, given the fact that fog can decrease the visibility considerably.

Digby Neck is well known for the number of days they are fogged in. Even without the problem of fog, the use of binoculars alone to determine the presence of mammals is inadequate and unreliable.

The lack of scientific data on the effects of blasting on large mammals such as whales and other marine animals is, in itself, reason enough to proceed very carefully in this area.

Ballast water. The probability is increased that ballast water will bring with it invasive
species by the increase in the number of ships in our waters. We are already dealing with the green crab, which has the potential to significantly alter the ecosystem. A ship’s ballast discharge can hold a wide range of species, which could have a harmful effect on the ecosystem.

Silt and runoff. Sediment, as a result of runoff, or windblown particles deposited into the Bay, can seriously endanger plant and aquatic life. There is not enough scientific data pertaining to how this may impact on the various local fisheries.

Our local communities have depended on these fisheries for their survival for centuries.

Negative impact on the community. Council was concerned that the potential negative impact on the community caused by such things as dust and noise.

Water supply is another concern. Will the company’s usage of water lower or contaminate the water table? Could this intensive blasting open up seams that might either divert the water supply from the surrounding communities or allow salt water or other contaminants to enter the water supply?

A good and dependable water supply is a necessity for a community.

Definition of "significant". Council was extremely opposed to the term "significant" to refer
only to impacts that extend beyond local or regional
effects. Certainly, if someone's well goes dry, the whales
are scared away, or the lobster fishery in the immediate
area is negatively impacted, that would be very significant
to our local community and way of life.

Council recognizes that this project
could provide additional jobs for our area and additional
tax revenues, although the amount is difficult to determine.
However, if jobs in other sectors of our economy are
threatened or lost, and the quality of life in surrounding
communities is negatively impacted, water issues, noise,
dust, et cetera, so as to make them less desirable places to
live, work, raise families, or retire, then have we gained
or lost?

Council's concerns about the
uncertainties as to the potential negative effects of this
project lead us to support our citizens who do not wish to
see this proceed.

It is not for me, as the Warden, or for
Council to determine whether or not the White's Point Quarry
and Marine Terminal Project should go forward. It is,
however, our responsibility as elected officials to bring
the concerns of our residents and Council forward, and to
make sure that they are adequately addressed.

In closing, I would like to thank the
members of the joint review panel for this opportunity to make this presentation.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Thurber.

Mr. Kinsella?

PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL - MAYOR JOHN KINSELLA

MAYOR JOHN KINSELLA: Good afternoon.

Again, my name is John Kinsella. I'm the Mayor of the Town of Annapolis Royal. I've served as the Mayor for the past six years, served on the Council for 15 years. It's been my pleasure to do so, by the way.

I'm going to be quoting from a letter that I wrote to Debra Myles, the Panel Manager, on May 19th, 2006.

"Regarding the comment on the Environmental Impact Statement, this is a huge project that would result in a quarry of approximately 150 hectares, about halfway out on Digby Neck. The project would be to quarry, crush, and ship basalt exclusively for export. The operation will run 24 hours a day, 46 weeks a year, give or take. The aggregate industry is as large as