

PUBLIC HEARING

WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

JOINT REVIEW PANEL

V O L U M E 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

-Fundy Fixed Gear Council
Mr. Chris Hudson
-Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - N.S.
Ms. Laura Hussey

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Per: H el ene Boudreau-Laforge, CCR

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(WARDEN JAMES THURBER)

1 joint... Well, a sequential presentation.

2 So gentlemen, very sorry to keep you
3 waiting, but this is a very important issue for all parties,
4 and we're trying to do it as thoroughly as we possibly can.

5 So could you identify yourselves, and as
6 you heard me say already if any of you have complicated
7 names please spell them out, and also identify your
8 affiliation and so forth.

9 **PRESENTATION BY THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF DIGBY -**
10 **WARDEN JAMES THURBER**

11 WARDEN JAMES THURBER: Mine might be
12 complicated. My name is James Thurber, T-h-u-r-b-e-r, and
13 I'm the Warden for the Municipality of the District of
14 Digby.

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

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

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

24 WARDEN JAMES THURBER: Okay. Thank you
25 very much, Panel.

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(WARDEN JAMES THURBER)

1 As I stated, my name is James Thurber,
2 and I am the Warden for the Municipality of District of
3 Digby. I am here today on behalf of the Council of the
4 Municipality, and on behalf of the majority of the citizens
5 of the Municipality who have told us that they do now want a
6 quarry on Digby Neck.

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

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

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

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

21 Often, Council is faced with making a
22 decision or taking a stand on issues that, while they may
23 appear to be good for the economy of the Municipality, they
24 may not be so good for other areas of the economy, for the
25 environment, or for the social aspect of the community.

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(WARDEN JAMES THURBER)

1 What may, at first glance, be seen as
2 something that could have a positive impact on the economy
3 of the area may, in the long term, have a devastating
4 negative impact on the environment, or on the quality of
5 life of the citizens of the community.

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

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

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

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

24 Ballast water. The probability is
25 increased that ballast water will bring with it invasive

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1 species by the increase in the number of ships in our
2 waters. We are already dealing with the green crab, which
3 has the potential to significantly alter the ecosystem. A
4 ship's ballast discharge can hold a wide range of species,
5 which could have a harmful effect on the ecosystem.

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

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

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

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

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

24 Definition of "significant". Council
25 was extremely opposed to the term "significant" to refer

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1 only to impacts that extend beyond local or regional
2 effects. Certainly, if someone's well goes dry, the whales
3 are scared away, or the lobster fishery in the immediate
4 area is negatively impacted, that would be very significant
5 to our local community and way of life.

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

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

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

25 In closing, I would like to thank the

1 members of the joint review panel for this opportunity to
2 make this presentation.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Thurber.
5 Mr. Kinsella?

6 **PRESENTATION BY THE TOWN OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL - MAYOR JOHN**
7 **KINSELLA**

8 MAYOR JOHN KINSELLA: Good afternoon.
9 Again, my name is John Kinsella. I'm the Mayor of the Town
10 of Annapolis Royal. I've served as the Mayor for the past
11 six years, served on the Council for 15 years. It's been my
12 pleasure to do so, by the way.

13 I'm going to be quoting from a letter
14 that I wrote to Debra Myles, the Panel Manager, on May 19th,
15 2006.

16 "Regarding the comment on the
17 Environmental Impact Statement, this is
18 a huge project that would result in a
19 quarry of approximately 150 hectares,
20 about halfway out on Digby Neck.

21 The project would be to quarry, crush,
22 and ship basalt exclusively for export.

23 The operation will run 24 hours a day,
24 46 weeks a year, give or take.

25 The aggregate industry is as large as