PUBLIC HEARING

WHITES POINT QUARRY AND MARINE TERMINAL PROJECT

JOINT REVIEW PANEL

VOLUME 10

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

PLACE HEARD: Digby, Nova Scotia

DATE HEARD: Wednesday, June 27, 2007

PRESENTERS:
- Lobster Fishing Area 34 Management Board
  Mr. Wayne Spinney
- Ms. Heather Jenkins
- Dr. Micheal Corbett
- Clean Annapolis River Project
  Andy Sharpe/Judith Cabrita/Ann Goddart
- Ms. Marilyn Stanton
- Ms. Tina Little
- Mr. Ashraf Mahtab
- Ecology Action Centre
  Ms. Jennifer Graham/Ms. Gretchen Fitzgerald
- Mr. Bob Morsches
intent to take your document to the Board of directors as soon as you finish here today and have more input and firm it up a bit before you email it to the Panel?

Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: That's correct. There will be a follow-up from us.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Miss, ma'am, your name, please.

Ms. MARY KENNAELLY: Oh, sorry. Mary Kennaelly.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: Our intent is to pass this on to the Board, and if there's additions or deletions, we will be passing that on to you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Mr. Spinney. Thank you very much for your presentation.

Mr. WAYNE SPINNEY: Thank you, all.

THE CHAIRPERSON: I'd like to move to the next presentation now, to Heather Jenkins. Is there a Heather Jenkins here? Thank you.

--- Pause

THE CHAIRPERSON: Please identify yourself and then begin.

PRESENTATION BY Ms. HEATHER JENKINS

Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: My name is Heather

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Jenkins. Good afternoon. Good afternoon.

My name is Heather Jenkins. I live in Digby and operate a small seasonal bed and breakfast there. Many of my guests drive out to the neck, either to whale watch, enjoy the trails, balancing rock, birds, seals, coastal vistas, or they just enjoy the clean, empty space. My European guests especially love the quiet, love the space.

You have a piece of heaven here. Do you realize what you have? A frequent typical comment.

Bilcon proposes to blast, extract, crush, and transport 40,000 tonnes of basalt rock a week from Whit Point Beach, Digby Neck. That is 120,000 tonnes of rock a year, times 50 years, is going to be blasted out of a 120-hectare quarry located on an approximate two-kilometre wide spit of land, and Mr. Buxton says that because there will be buffers of vegetation the tourists won't see anything.

For 50 years, tourists are not going to notice, as they drive by, that tonnes and tonnes of rock are being blasted, dug out, crushed, trucked over the land, and shipped over the water.

For 50 years, the residents of Digby Neck won't see anything because there will be buffers of vegetation, and they won't hear much because noise-reducing
materials will be used. The hoppers and the dump trucks are to be rubber lined.

Of course that will have a limited effect, once there is a layer of rock in a truck or in a hopper. Then rock will be falling on rock.

I am trying to visualize the size of a hole that 120,000 tonnes of rock times 50 years makes. I've tried to imagine standing on the edge, standing on the rim of this hole, because Mr. Buxton says that the site will be returned to its natural state at the end of the 50 years.

Cigarette manufacturers would still like us to believe that smoking has no influence on lung disease and lung cancer. For years, the owners of the coal mines assured the miners that their lung disease and emphysema had nothing to do with breathing in coal dust.

I am thinking back to years ago when I was a young single parent, living in a housing complex. There were lots of young, single mothers. A fellow jokingly said to me that a guy could do very well for himself cruising around in a fancy car on Friday night.

I feel like I did then; easily exploited, wary, and vulnerable.

This quarry has the potential to destroy all the attributes that make the neck a unique and desirable tourist destination, and a desirable and unique place to
As a retired nurse, my concern with the dust is for the babies, children and elders, sufferers of asthma, bronchiolitis, COPD, congestive failure as well as a myriad other health concerns that will be exacerbated by 50 live. It is very possible that an interpretive and/or discovery centre of some kind will be built somewhere on the Neck. It will be our area's Hopewell Rock, Peggy's Cove, Cabot Trail. It will put us on the map, and it will create family-sustaining jobs, without killing the very geography that provides the jobs.

My youngest daughter, Paula Fedirchuck, is in Seattle, Washington. I want to share with you some of her thoughts.

She is a senior environmental civil engineer with Herrera Environmental Consultants, 2200 6th Avenue, Suite 1100, Seattle Washington.

One of the hot issues with the quarries around Puget Sound is the widespread contamination to surface soils. I'm sure they, Bilcon, did an air model study, I don't know if one was done, to show where future dust will travel.

Think of that dust not only as a nuisance, but potentially contaminated. For certain, there will be dust, and rubber-lined dump trucks and hoppers won't stop it.

As a retired nurse, my concern with the dust is for the babies, children and elders, sufferers of
The proponent proposed a deep gravel mine on Moray Island, a coastal site, as is White Point. Local groups were concerned that the project could contaminate the fresh water supply, would increase the threat to already threatened whales and salmon, and that it was a project contrary to Senate-legislated efforts to years of breathing dust-laden air.

Paula asked her colleagues for their input. My mom is very concerned about a proposed aggregate quarry near where she lives in Digby, Nova Scotia.

Her main concerns are the impact due to blasting, increased marine traffic and overall irreparable destruction of what is currently pristine coastal land.

Mark Eubank, also with Herrera, a principal engineer, highly respected, replied, "There was a big brouhaha over mining a deep pit adjacent to the shoreline for sand and gravel on a site on Moray Island here in our own backyard a few years ago. To my knowledge, the mining never went through due to the environmental impacts, some of which had to do with threatening the ground aquifer."

I looked up the Moray Island project that Mark refers to, and although the technical speak caused my eyes to glaze, I saw several remarkable similarities between Moray Island and the White Point Beach site.

The proponent proposed a deep gravel mine on Moray Island, a coastal site, as is White Point.
Of all the things he said, the one that has stayed with me is about the blasting. He said that no matter how skilled the operator, blasting cannot always be predicted or controlled, that it can open underground fissures and cracks, and that these cracks and fissures in a coastal environment can allow salt water to mingle with and restore the overall quality of the coastal region.

Digby Neck already has a good drinking water supply, whales and an inshore fishery, and a pristine shore that doesn't yet need legislation to restore it if we stop this quarry.

Last year I had a guest and his wife stay with me for several days. Their last morning, we were lingering over coffee and chatting, and he asked what I knew about this proposed quarry "because, you know", he said, "you all have to stop it."

He went on to explain many reasons why it was a bad thing, and that he was very sceptical about the jobs that Bilcon is promising.

Most of the work is very specialized, and he doubted those trades exist in this area and that the company probably doesn't have the time or the local resources to do the necessary on-site training.

He spoke for some time, very articulate, very passionate. I wish he could speak before this Panel.

Of all the things he said, the one that has stayed with me is about the blasting. He said that no matter how skilled the operator, blasting cannot always be predicted or controlled, that it can open underground fissures and cracks, and that these cracks and fissures in a coastal environment can allow salt water to mingle with and

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contaminate the fresh groundwater.

This can never be fixed, never reversed.

Mark Eubanks refers to the threat to the aquifer on Moray Island, one of the reasons that project was rejected.

This year an ecologist and his wife were one of my first guests. The three of us had a good chat over coffee, as becoming the norm.

Early visitors are a delight, as they are not in a rush. The conversation came around to the quarry and the "Stop the Quarry" signs he had seen.

I explained a little about the situation and was surprised when he stressed that there is always two sides to an argument and that the economic side should be considered.

He was not familiar with the White Point project and asked the purpose of the quarry. I explained it was to provide gravel which would eventually pave roads in New Jersey.

"Pave roads in New Jersey", he said. "I thought you were going to say the Space Arm or new medicine. No, no. It is not worth the risk to the environment to pave roads, and they are not even your own roads."

Thank you.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. To you Gunter.
Ms. JILL GRANT: Ms. Jenkins, can you give us an idea of how far your business is from the quarry site?

Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: My business is in Digby, so it's quite far, and I've given a lot of thought before I've come today as to whether or not it would impact my business.

It would impact my business as a tourist business, but I personally would probably be okay because I have a beautiful home in a beautiful location, fortunately for me, nowhere near the quarry. So I could sell my property.

But it will impact my business. Tourism is predicted to really boom because of the baby boomers, but the baby boomers are a very specific tourist. They don't just go anywhere. They want to have experiential tourist destinations.

So they won't just come, no matter how beautiful my B&B is. They're going to come because there are things to do in the area, and they almost all go to the Neck.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Buxton?

Mr. PAUL BUXTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
Ms. HEATHER JENKINS

(QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC)

I don't have any questions.

THE CHAIRPERSON: Any additional questions? Yes, Mr. Mullin.

PRESENTATION BY Ms. HEATHER JENKINS QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr. DON MULLIN: Don Mullin.

As a retired nurse, do you have any concerns over the fact that a baseline air quality study was not done at the Whites Point site against which you can evaluate future changes that might impact on health?

Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: Well, again, as a retired nurse, yes, because I have worked in the desert. I worked in Saudi Arabia, so I know the quality of air there is one of the major contributing factors to lung disease with the clientele in that country.

The air is never cleaned because sometimes for four years there's no rainfall, and many of the doctors that I have worked with have identified that as the number 1 issue for lung disease in that country.

So I can speak to it from that point of view, but I mean, certainly not as an expert.

THE CHAIRPERSON: It's a form of silicosis, is it?

Ms. HEATHER JENKINS: Yes, exactly. It's like breathing in sandpaper.