



NOV 20 2007

Paul G. Buxton, Project Manager  
Bilcon of Nova Scotia Corporation  
305 Hwy #303, Suite 3  
Digby, NS B0V 1A0

Dear Mr. Buxton:

**Re: Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal**

The environmental assessment of the proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal Digby County, Nova Scotia, (Project) has been completed.

As you are aware, the Joint Review Panel issued their Report in October 2007. In the Report, the Panel recommended that I reject the Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal based on the Panel's conclusion that the Project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects that cannot be justified.

Ultimately, under Section 40 of the *Environment Act* and under the terms of the Joint Agreement signed November 3, 2004, it is for the Minister of Environment and Labour to make the final decision on whether or not to approve this Project

The purpose of the environmental assessment is to provide a process whereby the environmental effects of a project can be predicted and evaluated and a decision made regarding the acceptability of the project. The definition of environmental effect in the *Environment Act* is broad in nature and includes any change that the project may have on the environment, including socio-economic conditions, environmental health, physical and cultural heritage.

I have arrived at my decision following careful consideration of the Panel's Report. I have determined that the proposed Project poses the threat of unacceptable and significant adverse effects to the existing and future environmental, social and cultural conditions influencing the lives of individuals and families in the adjacent communities.

Therefore, in accordance with the authority provided by Section 40 of the *Environment Act*, the proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal is not approved.

Please note that my decision to reject the Project has no bearing on the pending decision of the Federal Government to be made in accordance with the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

Sincerely yours,

  
Mark Parent  
Minister

cc: Honourable John Baird

bcc: N. Vanstone  
K. MacNeil  
L. Roberts  
B. Arthur  
B. Young, CEAA  
prepared by H. MacPhail