

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

Dear Mr. Buxton:

I received your letter of January 9th, 2007. I was disappointed to learn that you cancelled the meeting scheduled for January 11, 2008 with Ms. Lorrie Roberts, Manager of Environmental Assessment when you learned that I would not be attending. I understand that this meeting was re-scheduled from December 14, 2007.

I wish to clarify that I had not planned to attend the meeting on either of these dates. Upon receipt of your letter, I referred to my notes of our conversation on November 20, 2007. I contacted you at the request of Minister Parent. During our conversation I made a commitment that I would ask Ms. Roberts to contact you to arrange a meeting with department staff. At my request, Ms. Roberts contacted you to arrange a meeting in response to several questions you raised concerning regulatory processes leading up to the Whites Point Quarry decision. I felt it was appropriate for staff who are more familiar with the EA process to speak with you about this directly and that my involvement was unnecessary.

You suggest in your letter of January 9th that Minister Parent made a commitment that I would meet with you. My understanding was that Minister Parent indicated to you that I would contact you, which I did on November 20th. Your letter also suggests that you wished to discuss "this very important decision". As I noted during our telephone conversation in November, the Minister has made his decision on the White Point Quarry and Marine Terminal application. I do not feel that there is value in meeting to discuss your views with respect to the merits of this project or the Minister's decision. However, if you wish to discuss the environmental assessment process in general, we would be pleased to meet with you.

If you still feel that a meeting with me is more appropriate than the proposed meeting with the Manager of Environmental Assessment, please advise. Keeping in mind the purpose of the proposed meeting as outlined above, I would appreciate it if you could clearly outline the issues you wish to discuss in advance so that we can ensure that the meeting is productive.

Please note that I also left a phone message on your voice mail on January 11, 2008.

Sincerely,

Nancy Vanstone
Deputy Minister