



Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia

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Fax Transmission

Date: 10 August 2006	Pages	3 (including cover)	
To: Ms. Debra Myles	From:	Darlene Grant Flander	TIANS
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Dear Ms. Myles,

Please see attached submission to the Review Panel for the proposed Whites Cove Quarry and Marine Terminal.

I will send the original of the letter in the mail and a scanned copy by email so that you have electronic records.

Yours sincerely

Darlene Grant Flander
Acting President, TIANS

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"To lead, support, represent, and enhance Nova Scotia's Tourism Industry"

In Alliance with:



August 10, 2006

Debra Myles
Panel Manager – Joint Review Panel
c/o Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin St
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3



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Dear Ms. Myles,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by Bilcon of Nova Scotia Corporation regarding the proposed Whites Cove Quarry and Marine Terminal Project.

The Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia submitted recommendations for the guidelines in January 2005. While the EIS submitted to the review panel by Bilcon addresses and alleviates some of TIANS concerns, the association was disappointed at the low level of consideration given to the tourism industry.

The figure quoted in Table TO – 6, chapter 9.3, page 103 of the EIS stated that tourism contributes \$3.1 million annually in tourism revenue to Digby Neck and Islands. This provides an important income for tourism operators in the area and a significant injection into the local and regional economy. In addition, the Tourism Division of the Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage invested \$97,000 directly in tourism product development in Digby County in 2005/2006, funding four different projects (Trails in Weymouth, an Interpretive Centre in Digby area, a sustainable tourism follow-up workshop and a site development plan for watchable wildlife opportunities (primarily birding) on Briar Island). This investment as well as other funding by the Culture and Heritage Divisions displays a commitment of the province to the development of tourism in the Digby area.

According to the interviews of local tourism operators conducted recently by the Digby Neck Community Development Association, there have been concerns expressed about how the quarry will impact their tourism businesses and livelihoods. TIANS is concerned for these operators, many of which are TIANS members. TIANS was interviewed by this association and supports the work that they have done in bringing the tourism perspective into focus on this issue.

TIANS feels that the proponent's analysis of the impact of the quarry on tourism is too superficial to fully explore the potential effect of the quarry on the image and marketability of this region as an ecotourism destination. The presence of this basalt quarry would conflict with the efforts being taken at a provincial level to market this region of Nova Scotia as an ecotourism area. The proponents limit their mitigation and impact statement on tourism to addressing the visual effect of the quarry. TIANS requests that the review panel require a more in



depth analysis of the impact on tourism by the proponents, including industry consultation and consider this before making its final recommendations.

The whale watching industry has become world famous in this area of the Bay of Fundy. TIANS is concerned that the impact of blasting and shipping on whales in the area is a serious threat to not only the whales themselves but also as a tourism product. While we feel that the EIS does address this to a certain extent, TIANS remains concerned that the full effect of the blasting is unknown, even though there are federal rules and regulations for minimum distances. One land based observer is not sufficient to scan the horizon for whales prior to blasting and whales can move at great speeds and may arrive within the area during the period of blasting or may surface and be struck by ships in the area during transportation of the basalt. TIANS recommends that the review panel carefully consider the potential impact and require the proponents to implement a more rigorous method of assuring the safety of marine mammals.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond and encourage your continued due diligence throughout this process.

Yours truly,

Original signed

~~Darlene Grant Flander~~
Acting President, TIANS