

Date: Thu, June 28, 2007 7:11 pm
To: comments@WPQ-jointreview.ca

Submission to the Panel Hearing on the proposed Mega quarry and Marine Terminal at Whites Point, Nova Scotia, June 25, 2007

Mr. Chair and fellow panel members:
PREJUDICE

WITHOUT

First I would like to thank you, the panel, for your diligent work in bringing all matters relating to the proposed quarry, to the light of day and also for your attempts to get all the required information from the stakeholders and the proponents.

In some cases it looks to me, that this is not as easy as one might think. We would need to have sincerity and total transparency provided at all times, for the Panel to make a fair judgment on the whole issue and to bring remediation, which might possibly prevent this proposed project from bringing about a total catastrophe for our people in its social, economic and environmental ramifications.

I am a permanent resident of St Mary's Bay area, who owns a business and several waterfront properties on the Bay. I have been involved in various ways, directly and indirectly, in the unfoldment of the EIS guidelines and in the observation of the hearings which have taken place here in Digby. It is my wish to express to the Panel my point of view on the proposed quarry at White's Point - and for that matter, this same point of view can be applied to any other quarry which is being proposed now or in the future, along the coastline of Nova Scotia.

First of all, I do not question the motives of the proponent, which are very straight forward and easy to comprehend - PROFIT. The company also is not to blame for taking advantage of the situation we have at the moment in Nova Scotia; which allows "open season" for opportunism by such companies, due to lack of Coastal Protection Laws.

Clearly the lack of vision and responsiveness of our political representatives to bring laws into effect, which would protect our coastline of Nova Scotia, has led to this application by the proponent to blast the basalt at Digby Neck along the North Mountain and ship it to the USA. The socio-economic and environmental vulnerability, which we now find ourselves facing, is due mainly to our government being derelict in its duties.

There are many types of corporations and their Vision and Mission Statements usually clarify how they carry out their business of making a profit.

Companies with a commitment to sustainability such as Tom's of Maine or Nova Scotia's own Just Us Coffee, are good examples of companies that make a profit, while affording the utmost respect and consideration to the environment, the planet and the people who live on it. Their

corporate Vision and Mission Statements reflect a spirit of cooperation and responsibility , while reaching their goals to make a profit.

Another example of a company that holds to sustainable development, is SSPS Ltd. which is located in Freeport, Long Island. It has the following Vision Statement ,which is even stated on the label of their products and is as follows: " SSPS Ltd. is a company that puts social, environmental and economic sustainability as the indivisible central criteria for all of its business aspirations and activities. Our goal is to leave the people and the planet happier, healthier and more prosperous, as a result of our products and activities". They have hired people, opened two small production facilities and have purchased a larger facility for additional production in Weymouth, (near Digby) .

Globally, people are now expecting more and more that corporations be responsible in the way they conduct their business; to the point where there are many companies at least trying to be sustainable companies concerned with our well being and the environment. When these companies approach a new venture they are using tools to establish the sustainability of that particular project- such as the GPI or, as the City of Halifax has recently used, the Natural Step Framework.

Naturally there is "greenwashing" and just lip service to the ideal of sustainability being made by some companies , which see this environmental concern as a game rather than an issue to be dealt with. Even this behaviour indicates that the companies know that a new "modus operandi" is being demanded of them by citizens of this earth, who are no longer willing to accept companies which "exploit to obtain profit".

My question is, what is the Vision and Mission Statement of Bilcon and any other company which is involved in this application for the proposed quarrying of Digby Neck?

If the only motive is "exploitation", we cannot seriously trust that any mitigated solutions given by the Panel would be taken seriously or that the Spirit of such mitigated solutions would be respected or fully understood or carried out by the proponent or the overseeing bureaucrats. It was obvious to me that some of the overseeing bureaucrats seemed to not even know the laws of Nova Scotia, such as the Environmental Goals and Sustainable Prosperity Act; let alone have guidelines and operational policies to implement this Act.

I have a very long list of possible grievances against a project of this magnitude and what its future ramifications might bring; but I shall keep myself to the ones, that I feel are the most destructive and irreversible ones and, which in my humble opinion, cannot be mitigated and/or cannot be truly determined.

1. The physical and irrevocable removal of land and the destruction of the environment.

2. The destruction of the lobster fishing industry and the rural way of life in those fishing communities . The negative impact of such

destruction on the social and economic well-being of those communities and other communities in Southwest Nova is unacceptable.

3. The loss of sovereignty for our Country. Should this quarry go ahead, it will put all Canadians in harms way. The possible implications from the corporate world's NAFTA Agreement could take away the citizens ability, through due political process, to stop other companies from coming and opening other major quarries just a few miles down the coast.

And again, under NAFTA, should the proponent fail to stand by their environmental responsibilities in the future, should this project be approved; the great burden of cost to monitor and impose stricter rules on the proponent would fall on the Canadian and Nova Scotia taxpayers - who gain absolutely NOTHING from this proposed project.

4. The decimation and possible extinction of species at risk, such as the whales.

Also the negative repercussions on the whale watching industry on Digby Neck and the Islands and Digby. How does one mitigate something which has been made extinct?

5. The destruction and loss of habitat, both on the land and in the sea, caused by the blasting, crushing and removal of the rock. The dust emissions and the noise pollution and all of their related affects on the animal and human population along this bay and St Marys Bay, cannot be mitigated.

As the bird flies, I live about 15 kms from the proposed quarry site, using the key on my map of Nova Scotia, to determine this distance. I have a weather station installed at my home ,which I record the velocity of the wind and its direction, daily. A Northwest Wind and a West Wind are usually the wind directions we experience here the majority of the time. Since some wind brings with it the stink of the refinery from St John ,New Brunswick, from time to time; I cannot imagine , what kind of dust from the quarry, we will experience here ,with a West wind.

My deck used to be totally covered with black soot blown in from the open burning of the garbage site on Digby Neck , when the wind was just the right direction; so experience and logic say to me, that I will be experiencing dust at my house on the other side of St Marys Bay, from the proposed quarry, should it be allowed to exist.

6.The destruction of our very important industry of tourism; not only on Digby Neck and the Islands, but in all of Southwest Nova. The "summer residents" who reside in Sandy Cove and Digby Neck bring more than economic prosperity to the area in which they reside, but they actively bring a significant income to many businesses located throughout Southwest Nova.

Unlike the travelling tourist, who might only visit your business once or twice, these valuable customers come back year after year.

These loyal customers become part of the rhythm of the year for those of us who have businesses in Southwest Nova and we appreciate their patronage. We also appreciate that they also bring their many visiting friends and family members, to also shop at our galleries and stores and restaurants. They come here and reside for three months each year because of the peace and natural beauty of our area; and it is a real possibility that they might pack up and flee should this quarry go ahead. They can probably experience the dust, noise and lack of peace in the places which they leave each year to come here.

7. The threat to the drinking water of the community nearby and to the water table as a whole is very concerning. When your home has no drinkable water, you have a valueless piece of real estate.

8. The lack of infrastructure to support the increased heavy-load traffic on those narrow roads of Digby Neck is of great concern and creates needless danger to travellers on the road, and again a taxburden to the Nova Scotia taxpayer who have to maintain these roads.

9. The increase in greenhouse gas emissions of some 95,000 tons per year, will be added to the the atmosphere by the proposed quarry operation; at a time when the rest of the world is self-imposing the necessary reductions to stop global warming. This is an additional burden that we can do without.

10. The underestimation of the dangers of the waters in the Bay of Fundy.

The potential hazard this additional shipping will bring to the Bay of Fundy is not offset by any up-side to the equation. A 700' barge in a huge storm could result in a catastrophic destruction of the Bay and its ecosystem.

Should

such a ship run aground and spill all of its fuel into the Bay; there would be death to the wildlife, the fisheries, the tourism and to the environment. To put all of this at risk so that a foreign company can come and remove our very coastline lacks sanity.

In closing, I wish to thank you for giving consideration to this presentation.

Klaus Langpohl

Resident on St. Mary's Bay, Digby County, Nova Scotia.