

MUNICIPALITY OF DIGBY

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DIGBY

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July 25, 2006

Ms. Debra Myles
Panel Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
22nd Floor, Place Bell
160 Elgin Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

Dear Ms. Myles:

Re: Environmental Impact Statement, Whites Point Quarry & Marine Terminal

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the Municipality of the District of Digby to express concerns that Council has regarding certain aspects of the EIS for the proposed Whites Point Quarry and Marine Terminal. Last evening, Council passed a motion that a letter be written outlining the following areas which they feel need to be addressed.

- 1) **Blasting** – The proponent has indicated that binoculars will be used to determine if any mammals or birds are present before blasting takes place. The use of binoculars is not a reliable method, given the fact that fog can decrease the visibility considerably. Digby Neck is well known for the number of days they are “fogged in”. Even without the problem of fog, the use of binoculars alone to determine the presence of mammals is inadequate and unreliable. The lack of scientific data on the effects of blasting on large mammals such as whales and other marine animals is in itself reason enough to proceed very carefully in this area.
- 2) **Ballast Water** – The probability is increased that ballast water will bring with it invasive species by the increase in the number of ships in our waters. We are already dealing with the green crab which has the potential to significantly alter the ecosystem. A ship's ballast discharge can hold a wide range of species which could have a harmful effect on the ecosystem. The proponent has not adequately addressed this potential hazard in the EIS.
- 3) **Silt and run off** – Sediment, as a result of runoff or windblown particles deposited into the Bay can seriously endanger plant and aquatic life. There is not enough scientific data pertaining to how this may impact on the fishery, especially the lobster fishery.

- 4) **Negative impact on Community** – Council was concerned that the potential negative impact on the community caused by such things as dust, noise, and protection of the water table has not been adequately addressed.
- 5) **Definition of Significant** – Council was extremely opposed to the term significant to refer only to impacts that extend beyond local or regional effects. Certainly if someone's well goes dry, the whales are scared away, or the lobster fishery in the immediate area is negatively impacted, that would be **very significant** to our local community and way of life.

As a Council, elected by the people of the Municipality of the District of Digby, we have supported our citizens in their opposition to this project. While it may not be quantifiable, there needs to be recognition of the fact that this project can negatively impact the quality of life of the residents of Digby Neck and Islands. This project is very much at odds with the promotion of Digby Neck and Islands as an eco-tourist destination.

Sincerely,

Original signed

Jim Thurber
Warden