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Mine Development Assessment Process

MONTEITH BAY GEYSERITE PROJECT

A report summarizing the reasons for the decision relating to the issuance of a Mine Development Certificate and outlining commitments, and permit, licence and approval information requirements.

February 1995



Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Energy, Mines
and Petroleum Resources
Ministry of Environment,
Lands and Parks

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Monteith Bay Geyselite quarry is located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, approximately 150 km northwest of Campbell River (Figure 1). The site is located at Monteith Bay on Kyuquot Sound, about 16 km north of the Village of Kyuquot. Access to the site is by boat or air.

Exploration to date has identified about 2.0 million tonnes of geyselite, comprised of 96% silica, which is used as an ingredient in the manufacture of Portland cement.

The company will quarry the silica products in three phases using conventional drill, blast, load and haul methods. The raw product will be initially crushed by a portable crusher in the quarry, then conveyed to a secondary crushing plant. The quarry will operate approximately three months per year for approximately twenty-five years with 70,000 tonnes of final product being produced annually. The crushed silica will be transported by barge from the quarry site to market.

The company anticipates that between two and six people will be hired to run the operation. The company plans to hire local workers where possible for both the construction and operating phases.

4.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Pursuant to section 2 of the *Mine Development Assessment Act*, Monteith Bay's application for a MDC has been reviewed by provincial and federal government agencies, local governments, Aboriginal groups and the public.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR), with the concurrence of the Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks (MELP), has determined, based on a full technical and environmental review and public and Aboriginal consultation programs, that any adverse environmental impacts that may be caused by the project can be managed through existing legislation and programs. In addition, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans was satisfied with the fish habitat restoration work required as a result of exploration activity and was therefore in support of the issuance of a MDC. A MDC has been issued subject to commitments and requirements identified in the MDC and in this report and its accompanying appendices. The MDC approves the quarry, crushing and screening plant, and the associated facilities as described in the application, including the barge load-out.