

Schroeter, Tom EM:EX

From: Schroeter, Tom EM:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2004 11:44 AM
To: Freer, Geoff EM:EX
Subject: RE: New Project Entering EA Process

Will do - thanks. I note it's already on our "Summary of Projects" spreadsheet.

-----Original Message-----

From: Freer, Geoff EM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 7:37 PM
To: Schroeter, Tom EM:EX; Lewis, Jim E EM:EX
Cc: Deleted - 040728 - Brino, Karina L EM:EX
Subject: FW: New Project Entering EA Process

Tom and Jim; can you please add to your status lists....thanks..Geoff

-----Original Message-----

From: Wynn, Sheila EM:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 5:56 PM
To: Freer, Geoff EM:EX
Subject: Fw: New Project Entering EA Process

This message sent from Sheila Wynn's Blackberry.

-----Original Message-----

From: Hesketh, Joan EAO:EX <Joan.Hesketh@gems7.gov.bc.ca>
To: Macatee, Gordon WLAP:EX <Gordon.Macatee@gems5.gov.bc.ca>; Valentine, Bill LWBC:EX <Bill.Valentine@gems9.gov.bc.ca>; Wynn, Sheila EM:EX <Sheila.Wynn@gems9.gov.bc.ca>; Doyle, Dan TRAN:EX <Dan.Doyle@gems2.gov.bc.ca>; Konkin, Doug FOR:EX <Doug.Konkin@gems8.gov.bc.ca>; Trumpy, Chris SRM:EX <Chris.Trumpy@gems1.gov.bc.ca>
CC: McDonald, Jessica L PREM:EX <Jessica.McDonald@gems8.gov.bc.ca>; Bones, John EAO:EX <John.Bones@gems3.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wed Jul 28 17:38:26 2004
Subject: New Project Entering EA Process

Colleagues

This message is to advise you that an order under section 10 of the provincial Environmental Assessment Act (the Act) has been issued to Polaris Minerals Corporation of Vancouver for the Orca Sand and Gravel Project (the Project), near Port McNeill. The section 10 order confirms that the project will require an environmental assessment certificate under the Act, before it can proceed.

It is likely that the Project will also be subject to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, in which case a cooperative environmental assessment will be undertaken in accordance with the Canada/British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation.

This Project involves the extraction of sand and gravel from a site 4 km northwest of Port McNeill, and its transport to a tidewater loading facility to be constructed north of the Port McNeill harbour. The proponent has been working with a number of agency staff to identify and address issues for its formal application, which it anticipates submitting in late September of 2004.

I have delegated lead responsibility for this project to John Bones, Project Assessment Director. John is in the process of formalizing an interagency working group for this project, that will consist of representatives from local government, First Nations, federal agencies and WLAP, MEM, LWBC, MSRM, MOT and MOF. Your support in providing appropriate assessment staff from your ministry is important as the working group

activities are expected to commence in early August.

Further information on the Project can be provided by contacting John Bones at 250-387-1447. Project information is also available on the Environmental Assessment Office website at www.eao.gov.bc.ca.

Thanks for your assistance.

Joan Hesketh
Deputy Minister
Environmental Assessment Office
Phone (250) 356-7475 Fax (250) 356-7477

ORCA Campbell R. Newspaper
Feb. 2/07
- first ship load → Calit. in next few mcs
- each load (22 planned in '07) ~ 70,000 t approx.
(@ full capacity ~ 90 loads)
- 200 construction workers (@ peak)
- Reserves: 127 Mt
- Nov. '07 - Calit. approval of US\$37.3B
infrastructure plan
- core of 30 workers @ mhd (incl. 50% FN)

Schroeter, Tom EM:EX

DRCA
TOS → Eagle
Rock

From: Jacobs, Jake PAB:EX
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2005 8:25 AM
Subject: Add to MEM Watch - April 1

Eagle Rock Quarry, CH News, March 31, 2005.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING A CRUCIAL STEP FOR CREATING HUNDREDS OF JOBS IN THE ALBERNI VALLEY. THE PROVINCE AND THE LOCAL COMPANY HAVE INKED A LAND USE DEAL TO BUILD A NEW ROCK QUARTERY. EVEN WITH THIS AGREEMENT. THE JOBS MIGHT NOT BE COMING AS SOON AS HOPED. ++

THE B.C. GOVERNMENT AND THE COMPANY EAGLE ROCK MATERIALS SIGNING AN AGREEMENT ABOUT THE USE OF CROWN LAND FOR A 50--YEAR TERM.

IT IS REALLY THE LAST FINAL STEP THAT WE NEEDED THIS BRITISH COLUMBIA. IT IS BIG FOR US.

IT WAS MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO WHEN THE PEOPLE IN THE ALBERNI VALLEY SAW THE PLAN AT THE INFORMATION MEETING. THE GOAL TO BUILD A ROCK QUARTERRY NEAR THE ALBERNI INLET. 15 KILOMETRES SOUTH OF PORT ALBERNI. IT WOULD EXPLORE 16 MILLION TONS OF CRUSHED ROCK THE MAJORITY HEADED TO CALIFORNIA. OFFICIALS HOPED CONSTRUCTION WOULD BEGIN DURING THE SUMMER OF 2003. TWO YEARS ~~LATER~~ ^{export} THE COMPANY IS STILL SIGNING AGREEMENTS.

THE CALIFORNIA END OF THINGS HAS TAKEN US LONGER TO DEVELOP THAN WE THOUGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE. THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF OUR MAJOR DELAYS.

I ASK YOU TO CONTINUE TO BE PATIENT. IT IS A LONG-TERM PROJECT. WE'RE GETTING CLOSER TO THE DAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU, BUT WE STILL CAN'T SAY WHEN, BECAUSE WE STILL DON'T KNOW.

DESPITE TODAY'S SIGNING THERE'S NO CERTAINTY WHY I WHEN CONSTRUCTION WILL AGAIN.

THAT'S A ONE TO BE PREDICTING IT WILL HAPPEN.

THE TIMING MAY SEEM A LITTLE SUSPECT. JUDITH SAYERS IS CHIEF FOR THE FIRST NATION AND THE BAN ELECTIONS HAPPENS NEXT WEEK AND THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION IS LESS THAN TWO MONTHS AWAY, BUT BOTH SIDES DENY THE TIMING IS LEXEERING.

EVERY STEP ALONG THE WAY HAPPENS IN THEIR TIMING. WE JUST HAPPEN TO FINISH THIS AGREEMENT. WE WANTED TO SIGN IT. WE WANTED TO SHARE OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY.

IT IS JUST THE TIMING THAT'S HAPPENED I KNOW THAT -- THAT THERE IS AN ELECT. BUT THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON A FEW PROJECTS AND THESE THINGS TAKE TIME TO -- GET TO WHERE THEY ARE. AND -- I HOPE THAT EVERYBODY LOOKS AT THIS AS A GREAT BENEFIT TO THE VALLEY AND FOR EVERYBODY.

AS FOR THE 400 PEOPLE WHO SUBMITTED RESUMES MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO. THE COMPANY SAYS IT WILL LIKELY BE AT LEAST ANOTHER YEAR BEFORE ANY MORE HIRING BEGINS.

Schroeter, Tom EM:EX

VAS → ORCA

From: Van Ek, Christie EM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 10:34 AM
To: Anderson, Duane EM:EX; Bellefontaine, Kim EM:EX; Beswick, Ed EM:EX; Booth, Richard EM:EX; Brino, Karina L EM:EX; Brody, Margo EM:EX; Carr, Chris EM:EX; Cheetham, Pat EM:EX; Close, Aaron EM:EX; Draper, Diana EM:EX; Freer, Geoff EM:EX; Hermann, Fred EM:EX; Hoffman, Al EM:EX; Howe, Diane J EM:EX; Howell, Carol EM:EX; Hutchins, Julie EM:EX; Lewis, Jim E EM:EX; McLaren, Graeme EM:EX; Morgan, David EM:EX; Nakatsuka, Caroline M EM:EX; Perry, Monica EM:EX; Pocklington, Cheryl M. EM:EX; Rai, Diana L EM:EX; Sterloff, Cale EM:EX; Taje, Eddy EM:EX; Vilkos, Verna EM:EX; Wood, Nancy J. EM:EX; Wuschke, Steven EM:EX; Berdusco, Ricci EM:EX; Brunke, Ann EM:EX; Cathro, Mike EM:EX; Flynn, Doug EM:EX; Friske, Marian EM:EX; Grieve, Dave A EM:EX; Lane, Bob EM:EX; MacDonald, Garry EM:EX; Pardy, Jamie EM:EX; Pascuzzi, Phil EM:EX; Paterson, Terry J EM:EX; Reid, Bruce EM:EX; Rothman, Stephen EM:EX; Schroeter, Tom EM:EX; Seguin, Joe EM:EX; Wojdak, Paul EM:EX; Wonders, Glen EM:EX; Alldrick, Dani EM:EX; de Groot, Laura EM:EX; Desjardins, Pat EM:EX; Diakow, Larry EM:EX; Grant, Brian DB EM:EX; Jones, Larry EM:EX; Lefebure, Dave EM:EX; Legun, Andrew EM:EX; Lett, Ray EM:EX; Logan, Jim EM:EX; Massey, Nick EM:EX; McArthur, Gib EM:EX; McDonald, Dianne EM:EX; Mihalynuk, Mitch EM:EX; Nelson, JoAnne EM:EX; Nixon, Graham EM:EX; Schiarizza, Paul EM:EX; Simandl, George EM:EX; Stewart, Linda L EM:EX; Webster, Ian EM:EX; Wilcox, Allan EM:EX
Subject: FW: Re: Environmental Assessment Certificate Decision for Orca Sand and Gravel Project

-----Original Message-----

From: Lefebure, Dave EM:EX
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 6:59 AM
To: Van Ek, Christie EM:EX
Subject: Fw: Re: Environmental Assessment Certificate Decision for Orca Sand and Gravel Project

Christie:

Please distribute to all staff.

Dave
Dave

" Away from my desk" - (may explain brevity of this email)

David Lefebure
Chief Geologist
BC Ministry of Energy and Mines
(250) 952-0374

-----Original Message-----

From: Reimer, Greg A EM:EX <Greg.Reimer@gov.bc.ca>
To: Lefebure, Dave EM:EX <Dave.Lefebure@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thu Jul 21 23:18:15 2005
Subject: FW: Re: Environmental Assessment Certificate Decision for Orca Sand and Gravel Project

FYI.

-----Original Message-----

From: Bones, John EAO:EX
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 12:16 PM
To: Pedersen, Larry AGF:EX; Reimer, Greg A EM:EX; Trumpy, Chris WLAP:EX; Wynn, Sheila

CAWS:EX; Brownsey, Lorne TNO:EA; Dyble, John C TRAN:EX; Wilkinson, Andrew SBED:EX
Cc: Hayden, Dana L PREM:EX; Deleted - 050630 - McDonald, Jessica PREM:EX
Subject: Re: Environmental Assessment Certificate Decision for Orca Sand and Gravel Project

As Acting Associate Deputy for Joan Hesketh, I am writing to advise you that the ministers of MOE and MEMPR have approved and signed an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Orca Sand and Gravel Project, proposed by Orca Sand and Gravel Ltd. for a site 4km north of Port McNeill. The news release announcing the decision is located at:

<http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2005ENV0061-000685.htm>

Under the Concurrent Approval Regulation, Orca Sand and Gravel Ltd. submitted applications for the following provincial permits and licences:

- * Mines permit under the Mines Act from MEMPR for pit operation
- * Foreshore lease under the Land Act from MAL for ship loading facilities.

The Regulation requires that the permitting agencies make a decision on these permit applications no later than 60 days after the date of the ministers' decision on the environmental assessment certificate for the Project, which is dated July 14, 2005. Each of the above permitting agencies has been advised of the 60-day timeline.

The EAO would like to thank all agencies and staff for their efforts in the review of this project.

John Bones
Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
Phone (250) 387-1447 Fax (250) 356-6448

TOS → Orca

Schroeter, Tom EMPR:EX

From: Jacobs, Jake PAB:EX
Sent: Friday, March 31, 2006 2:52 PM
Subject: Add to MEMPR Media Watch - Mar.31 - Polaris Minerals

Vancouver Island First Nations partner with mining industry - Bill Cranmer, Namgis First Nation, and Marco Romero, CEO of Polaris Minerals, joins Mark Forsythe - BC Almanac - CBC Radio - March 31, 2006, 12:40 PM

Mark Forsythe: There's a new mine beginning to take shape on B.C.'s coast, and this one has the seal of approval from First Nations. In fact, the Namgis people are part owners. Today there is a blessing ceremony underway to mark the start of construction on what's been called the Orca Quarry, near Port McNeill, on northern Vancouver Island.

On line is Namgis Chief, Bill Cranmer, and Polaris CEO, Marco Romero.

Marco, I want to hear what sort of mining project this is.

Marco Romero: Well, first of all, Mark, allow me to correct you on this. This is a quarrying project. We like to call ourselves part of the construction materials industry.

What the operation entails is the extraction of natural sand and gravel for shipment, utilizing large vessels to the California construction industry where it will be used to make ready-mixed concrete.

Forsythe: Which can be used for many, many different things.

What's that demand like in California right now?

Romero: California is consuming over a quarter-billion tons of these materials year in and year out, either for residential and commercial buildings or for infrastructure. Recently, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced a \$220-billion infrastructure program which we expect will be consuming large quantities of these materials.

Forsythe: Bill Cranmer, why do the Namgis people want to be partial owners in this?

Bill Cranmer: Well, it's a very exciting project. Economically it's going to provide jobs for our people, not only for our people but for our neighbours and relatives, the [inaudible] to the north of us. Not only jobs, but as partners we'll be receiving revenues as this goes along.

Forsythe: What are the terms of this agreement: how much employment for your people, what sort of training as well?

Cranmer: Well, it's estimated there are going to be about 80 jobs. Half of those will go to the

[inaudible]. The training requirements are going to be - I think, according to our last discussions with our partners - a lot of on-the-job training for machine operating. Of course, there will be a need for ticketed people: electricians, machinists, and those kinds of jobs.

Forsythe: I believe you have 12 per cent ownership. Where were you able to get the financing for that?

Cranmer: Well, we do have some revenues coming in from our agreement with Forests and Range, with the province, and we've negotiated some equity contribution from the Department of the Indian Affairs. Then, we'll have part of a financing agreement with our partners.

Forsythe: Marco, why did you want to make sure this project had First Nations as partners?

Romero: At first, one of the things that we sought to achieve was to have a measure of local ownership. It made absolute sense to us that we would approach the First Nations who have been here forever, figuratively, and who have a strong connection with the land. So we approached them right at the beginning of the process, told them what we were hoping to do, asked them for their blessing, and quickly that developed into a relationship which, ultimately, got us to become co-owners of the project.

We think it's a wonderful precedent, wonderful model. It's got everybody thinking about the same issues, facing the same challenges, [inaudible] like owners.

Forsythe: I'm calling this a mine, and you're calling it a quarry. But anyone who's been to Sechelt can see that it means big gouges in the hillsides when you take out sand and gravel. How much will this scar that landscape around Port McNeill?

Romero: Well, let me tell you that we have put a tremendous amount of effort to satisfy the expectations and desires of the community in our own standards. One of the principal features of our project is that we will be progressively reclaiming the land gradually and rapidly as we move along. So at any given time, we will only have a relatively small area exposed.

Some other operations, either because of their standards or their practices or because of the site - that maybe doesn't lend itself to it - end up having to expose much larger areas. In our case, it will be literally, in the order of a magnitude, smaller; yet the operation in scale will be similar.

Forsythe: Chief Cranmer, this land is also subject to your land claim, but does it alienate it in any way with this kind of development on it?

Cranmer: No. No. I think what Polaris is done, as he said before: they've set the standard in what corporations should do when they come into our territories. This particular area is a shared territory, between us and our northern neighbours. As I say, it's a standard that should be followed by [audio missing] territories.

Forsythe: You will continue to pursue your land claim on this land, though?

Cranmer: Well, as I say, it's shared territory. In our treaty process, of course, we have designated lands that we're negotiating. Then, of course, there's also the area of overlapped territories that would be negotiated with our neighbours.

Forsythe: Also this is a \$100-million project when you look at the whole project: this operation at Port McNeill and, then, also an offloading facility in California. Tell us about that aspect, Marco.

Romero: We have as part of our plan a desire to have control over the entire logistical chain. We want to have the resource extraction; we want to have the transportation, as well as the receiving terminal under our control.

Working with another group of Vancouver Island First Nations, the Hupacasath in Ucluelet, we co-own terminals in California. We're building the first one of those now, pretty much finishing all the engineering and getting ready to construct [inaudible] essential elements of the plan, as well.

Forsythe: How much impact do you both think it's going to have on that regional economy, northern Vancouver Island?

Romero: Well, we're not going to solve the problems of northern Vancouver Island, the unemployment, but we're going to make a positive step, I think, by adding a measure of economic diversification. This is a business that tends to be very stable, runs year round; it's not prone to the cyclicity that many of the other resource-based industries have, like, metal mining or, even, forest extraction.

Forsythe: Bill Cranmer, how much of a difference do you think it'll make?

Cranmer: It'll make a great difference to the Namgis. Not only employment but the revenues that we receive as partners - we'll be using that to further develop other economic activities in our area.

Forsythe: It is this afternoon that you have the official blessing ceremony. We wish you well at that.

The production begins next year, I understand.

Thanks to both of you for speaking to me right now.

Jake Jacobs
Public Affairs Officer
Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources

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