

From: Jay E Hartling
To: MacPhail, F Helen
Date: 2008-02-25 1:02 PM
Subject: comments from Fundy Gypsum, Miller's Creek Mine Extension

The following are comments from the Office of Aboriginal Affairs regarding the proposed CGC Inc. Fundy Gypsum, Miller's Creek Mine Extension, as per notice provided by Nova Scotia Environment and Labour on February 21, 2008:

Although the Province of Nova Scotia did not formally enter a consultation process under the Mi'kmaq-Nova Scotia-Canada Consultation Terms of Reference (ToR) on this issue, it was added to the agenda of a formal consultation meeting under the ToR on mining issues on February 6, 2008.

The Glooscap First Nation has expressed concerns about their dealings with the company. The company held an initial meeting with the First Nation to discuss potential socio-economic benefits to the community. However, subsequent meetings to follow up on those initial discussions have been frustrated. The Mi'kmaq have asked the Province to recommend that the company continue to meet with the Glooscap First Nation in hopes of reaching an agreement on benefits arrangements.

A Mi'kmaq Ecological Knowledge Study was done by the Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq (CMM). A number of medicinal, food/beverage and craft/art plants were found within the proposed project area. However, most of these plants can be found and harvested in adjacent areas, with the exception of the following:

There are several identifications of Black Ash within the proposed project area. A plan to protect some of these plants, where possible, as well as a mitigation plan for those that cannot be protected should be developed in collaboration with the CMM.

A substantial population of a rare medicinal plant was identified surrounding Dump Pond, feeding into Shaw Brook. This plant is not commonly accessible throughout Nova Scotia and is not found in such concentrations. Disturbance of this sensitive area during project development should be avoided, where possible.

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