

Jan. 17, 2007

Mark Parent,
Minister of the Environment
3818 Main St.
Kentville, N.S., B4N 1K7

Dear Mark Parent *,

Please reject the proposal of Fundy Gypsum to strip mine the Avon Peninsula. Here we have another example of an offshore (mostly US up til now) company extracting raw materials to process elsewhere, leaving a mess behind. Creating this mess will provide far fewer jobs than the communities now there engaged in small farming, sustainable forestry, and other rural enterprises. Generations of people have invested themselves in cultivating what is there, not least of which are viable, and supportive communities. The strip mine will destroy all this.

Why is the gypsum we have not being turned into gyprock here, and used here? Think of the future. We need to keep our resources here for our future. Having all the processing done "away", and then imported back finished will become even more expensive in the future.

I used to live in that area. The Avon peninsula is beautiful, and a bit mysterious. A very good 'discovery' for tourists. Not, however, if it is a strip mine.

It is a peninsula, draining into the Avon River. With what-all junk is that river, home of sturgeon and shad, and other life, going to be polluted from a strip mine? What about the water on the peninsula itself? Few minerals are in a pure state. What, in this location goes along with the gypsum? Fresh water is going to be much more valuable in the future, than gypsum.

As a resident of Nova Scotia, who likes to eat, and with grandchildren in the house, I put my vote behind preserving agricultural land, rather than exporting a raw commodity. The future looks very uncertain. I want my grandkids to be able to eat.

Respectfully, * (Quakers do not use honourific titles)

Sylvia Mangalam

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