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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### *1.0 The Project*

Bilcon of Nova Scotia Corporation (the Proponent), a Nova Scotia registered corporation, proposes to construct, operate and decommission a basalt quarry, ship loading facility, and marine terminal for the production and export of crushed rock at Whites Cove on Digby Neck in Digby County, Nova Scotia.

The project is subject to a Joint Panel Review under an agreement between the Federal Government and the Province of Nova Scotia and an environmental assessment has been carried out in accordance with the agreement.

The components of the project are:

- Rock extraction
- A rock crushing and screening plant
- A loading tunnel
- A ship loading facility
- A marine terminal

Works associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the project including: site access road, sediment retention ponds, maintenance area, preservation areas, and sediment and topsoil storage areas.

The project would be located on private property leased by the Proponent with exception of the ship loading facility and marine terminal which is proposed for provincial Crown foreshore and nearshore in Whites Cove.

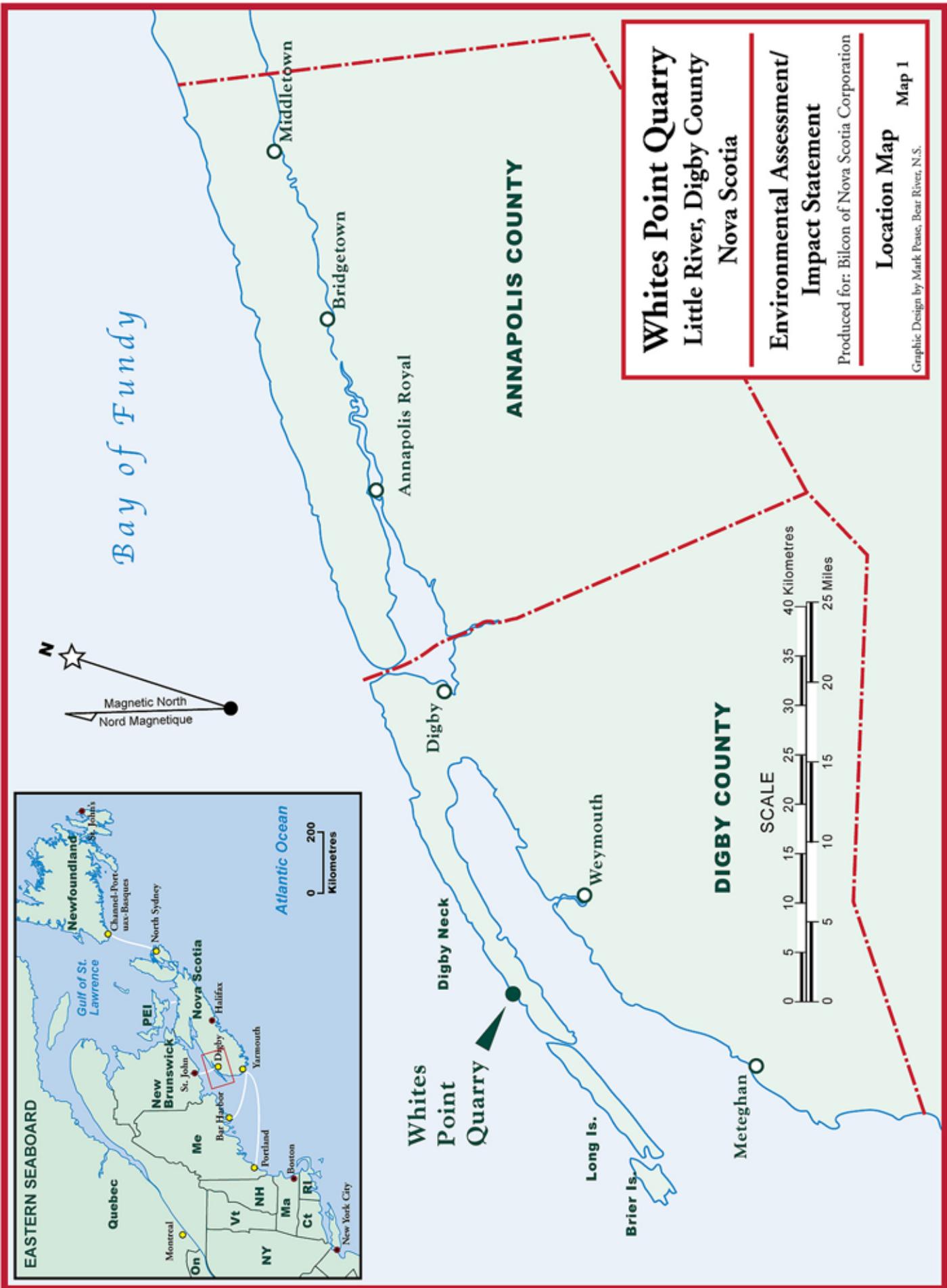
The lifespan of the project is projected to be 50 years, with the annual production of 2 million tonnes being shipped to the United States for use by the Proponent's parent company, Clayton Concrete Block and Sand.

The location of the project is shown on Map 1.

The capital cost of the project is estimated to be \$40.6 million over a one-year construction period with annual expenditures estimated to be \$20 million. The project is expected to create 34 direct full-time jobs over the projected 50 year lifespan.

The Environmental Assessment

The environmental assessment which was carried out over a three and a half year period covered the valued environmental components set out in Table 2.



**Whites Point Quarry**  
 Little River, Digby County  
 Nova Scotia

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**Environmental Assessment/  
 Impact Statement**

Produced for: Bilcon of Nova Scotia Corporation

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**Location Map**      **Map 1**

Graphic Design by Mark Pease, Bear River, N.S.

The following additional elements were also covered as required in the Final Guidelines:

- Alternative Means of Carrying out the Project
- Cumulative Environmental Effects
- Environmental Management
- Accidents and Malfunctions
- Follow-up Program

## **2.0 Information Disclosure and Public Consultation**

During the issues scoping phase, Bilcon provided information regarding the project as it became available.

The issues scoping process was designed not only to provide information, but also to gather input on how communications could be provided throughout the life of the project. This two-way dialogue has already resulted in, and will continue to result in, a regularly updated communications plan to address and integrate feedback.

Methods for providing this information included the Community Liaison Committee, public information sessions, individual interviews, media notices, workshops, website, panel displays, and handouts.

Bilcon carried out extensive public consultation over a three and a half year period including more than 107 different stakeholder consultations, open houses, an attitude survey, a quality of life survey, exit surveys, and a store-front operation.

Bilcon sought to consult with the First Nations over the life of the Environmental assessment. However, Bilcon was advised by Kwilnul Maw-klusaqn (Mi'kmaq Rights Initiation ) that the position being taken was that consultation with First Nations groups could only be undertaken by the federal government with Kwilnuk Maw-klusaqn. A report entitled "*Mi'kmaq Use of Oositookum (Digby Neck), It's Surrounding Waters, and The Mainland Shore of St. Mary's Bay*" was presented to the Panel in January 2006, and this report was reviewed by the Proponent.

Information gathered during the public consultation process and, in particular, the traditional community knowledge, was used extensively by the Proponent to identify the valued environmental components and in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Concerns raised by the public were documented and were considered in the selection of the valued environmental components and during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement. A concordance table is included in the Environmental Impact Statement

listing the concerns and issues raised by the public and where these issues and concerns have been addressed.

Bilcon and its consultants also sought advice from both federal and provincial regulatory agencies during the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement and the assistance of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, in particular, is recognized.

### **3.0 Environmental Effects**

The main concerns raised by the public were water supply and quality, air quality and noise, quality of life, the fishery, tourism, cemeteries, and species at risk. Each of these topics was examined in detail, together with many other issues raised by the public or regulatory agencies which emerged during the assessment process.

Where negative effects were identified, mitigation measures have been proposed, together with an extensive monitoring program to ensure that the mitigation will be successful.

Mitigation measures and monitoring programs are set out in the EIS for each VEC. However, they are set out in tabular form in Chapters 11.4 and 11.5 of the EIS and these tables are included in this Executive Summary.

The Impact Summary Table 2 in this Executive Summary sets out each of the issues identified during the environmental assessment process and the residual impact after mitigation rated temporally and spatially and for the level of significance.

No significant adverse residual effects were identified while several significant positive effects were identified.

Cumulative effects are dealt with in Chapter 10 of the EIS and the Summary Table of Cumulative Effects is included in this Executive Summary.

The Commitments Table in this Executive Summary sets out the commitments with respect to mitigation, monitoring, and compensation made by Bilcon as part of this application.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

Based on the information set out in the application and the Proponent's Commitments, the Proponent submits that the project is not likely to cause any significant adverse effects.