

Aug. 16th, 2013

Ministry of Energy and Mines
Mining and Minerals Division
6th Floor, 1810 Blanchard Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M9

Attention: Honourable Bill Bennett, Ms. Diane Howe, Mr. Ed Taje

Subject: Bulk coal handling on Texada Island

Re: Texada Quarries (Lafarge Canada) application for amendment to Permit M-66, File ref. no. 14745-20

The Sunshine Coast Conservation Association represents some 250 individual and family members and dozens of groups and organizations. Our mission is to preserve the biodiversity on the Sunshine Coast.

We are writing to object to the short 30-day response time for what is potentially a major impact on our marine environment. We request an additional six months to allow for review and response to the exponential increase in coal handling proposed by Lafarge Canada. We strongly urge that hearings about this application occur on the Sunshine Coast.

The lack of public input is unprecedented for an industrial development of this size. The million of tonnes of coal shipped and handled per year and the associated environmental impacts along with the potential accidents from the increased shipping requires considerably more study and review than 30 days in the middle of summer. An extended environmental review should address the following key areas:

- Size of the stockpile and the impact of coal dust on human health and the surrounding environment.
- risks to the marine environment from increased shipping and associated accidents. In July 2009 a tug towing equipment within the Skookumchuk rapids was flipped over and in May 2005 a barge containing limestone from Texada was beached on Davis Bay community beach. Both of these incidents represent the potential for a marine environmental disaster.
- Cumulative impacts and threats to include proposed projects such as Leheigh/Heidelberg Cements Davie Bay Project.
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans oversight and ongoing monitoring of these projects.
coal dust suppression on barges towing through the Strait of Georgia and in particular Sabine Channel.
- Environmental and economic impacts to Jedediah Island Provincial Park, South Texada Island Provincial Park, Squitty Bay Provincial Park and Sabine Channel Marine Park and the islands ecosystem as a whole.

- rainwater runoff and storm water management plan with containment for a greater than 1 in 5 year event as proposed. As we have learned from recent weather events, our expectations regarding severity and frequency of storms must be re-evaluated.
- Impacts to the estuary and associated environs from run off.

This is only a partial list, with many other areas in need of examination.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

Jason Herz, Chair
Sunshine Coast Conservation Association

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