

Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society

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Barry Penner
Minister of the Environment

Blair Lekstrom
Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

September 22, 2009

Subject: Assessment and Review of Texada Karst and Cave formations

Dear Sirs,

I am writing on behalf of the Powell River Parks and Wilderness Society (1992) in regards to the Lehigh application to mine a property at Davie Bay on Texada Island. We support the request by the Powell River Regional District that there be both, an economic and karst assessment of the application for a limestone quarry at Davie Bay, as this is in the interest of the public to have this occur. Further we support a full review.

According to recent scientific information provided by Paul Griffiths and Carol Ramsey the karst formations are extensive and remarkable. They are adjacent to the Lehigh property and the crown property on which the mine is proposed. It is quite conceivable that blasting will have a deleterious impact on the caves and karst formations. We find it reasonable that proper scientific assessment of the area be conducted in a timely manner to allow for this information to become available for a review.

It is not altogether certain that a mine is needed there given the extensive holdings of the existing mines on Texada that have a huge volume of limerock in store that should be exhausted first.

Moreover having a mine at Davie Bay would impact on the scenic beauty of the area that has considerable recreation and tourism values, that are yet to be fully

realized. Current access to the west coast of Texada Island needs to be improved, not diminished, and future generations of Texadans and visitors to this region ought to be able to enjoy its breathtaking natural beauty.

Establishment of the mine would not only remove an oceanside UREP of high biodiversity values, but also impact the ability of the region to hold water. Karst formations are vast stores of aquifers and Texada will need the water in the future that is stored at this point in this area. The water quality and quantity should not be compromised for future generations. The annual capacity of the proposed mine is potentially larger than what the production figures suggested in the application.

We think it would be prudent for the Province to consider the necessity for a mine in this sensitive location. We encourage the Province to conduct a full review with public participation in the process. And vitally important, a thorough scientific assessment of the karst and cave formations should be undertaken so we understand what is there, and make informed contributions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Eagle Walz
President
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Cc:

Karen Christie, Project Assessment Director, Environment
Assessment Director, Environment Assessment Office
Doug Sweeney, Chief Inspector of Mines
Frances Ladret, PRRD Administrator
Paul Griffiths