

October 2, 2012

MNR4825MC-2012-2816

Mr. Mitchell Shnier  
25 Lower Links Road  
Toronto, ON M2P 1H5

Dear Mr. Shnier

Thank you for your correspondence of September 11, 2012 regarding the *Economic Impact of Waterpower Projects on Crown Lands in Ontario Report* prepared for the Ministry of Natural Resources by AECOM. The Honourable Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources, has asked me to respond to your concerns on his behalf.

Our government has placed a priority on developing clean, renewable sources of energy, which will contribute to limiting the impact of climate change and building a green economy benefiting all Ontarians including northern and Aboriginal communities. Renewable energy projects, including waterpower will help ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of electricity for the future.

In support of the *Green Energy Act*, our ministry has commissioned a number of scientific, research and socio-economic studies and reports including the *AECOM Report* prepared to help provide insight into the potential socio-economic impacts of proposed waterpower development on Crown land.

This study is intended to be a basic economic impact analysis at provincial and regional levels. Because of its scope, it focuses on the economic impacts of water power projects and does not account for all the impacts related to other land uses activities. This type of analysis is beyond the scope of this project.

In addition to the *AECOM Report*, my ministry has also undertaken research associated with: best management construction practices for waterpower development; bat and bird mortality monitoring and mitigation for wind power development; best management practices for waterpower development and sturgeon, economic impacts of wind power development on Crown land; and field assessments of impact mitigation for eel and sturgeon.

As these studies and reports are completed, my ministry makes these materials available for public review.

Sincerely,



Eric Boysen  
Director  
Renewable Energy Program

c: Hon. Michael Gravelle  
Minister of Natural Resources