



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

Swift River Statement Re: Wahta Mohawk First Nation Letter to Government

October 7, 2014 – Swift River wishes to take the opportunity to dissolve further miscommunication and achieve clarity on this issue. We have responded directly via a letter to The Wahta Mohawks to address the inaccuracies revealed today in its correspondence. All information provided to the Wahta Mohawks in its May 2012 Addendum to the Environmental Screening Review Report was indeed factual and current.

Chief Franks alleges that information we provided during the environmental assessment consultation period was erroneous based on the statement there would be "positive impact to portage" in Table 6.1 of our 2012 Addendum Report to the Environmental Screening Review Report (2012 Addendum). In brief, this reference refers to the impact of changes between the 2009 ESRR and the 2012 Addendum on the purported portage trail. The 2009 ESRR design blocked the Moon and Lake Muskoka ends of the purported portage trail. The 2012 Addendum design was a "positive impact to the portage" because only the Moon River end of the trail would be blocked. In other words, the Lake Muskoka end of the trail is not blocked (the "positive impact") by the revised Project design.

Chief Franks also alleges that we have expanded "the floorplate of it to even more obstruct the Bala Portage". This is incorrect. The Moon River side of the purported portage was to be completely blocked on the Project site design presented in the 2012 Addendum. No change has been made to limits of the Project site i.e. the Crown land to be used for the Project.

With respect to consultation, Swift River and/or its agents contacted the Wahta Mohawks and on numerous occasions since August 2007. A record of this consultation with the Wahta Mohawks and the other 7 aboriginal communities consulted on this project, is provided on our website at www.balafalls.ca.

About the North Bala Small Hydro Project

The North Bala Small Hydro Project is one of the first projects awarded under Ontario's Crown land release program for renewable energy in 2005. In late 2011, Swift River made the difficult decision to abandon its plan to build the project on municipally owned land and pursue a plan to use the adjacent Crown land only. This change resulted in an Addendum (filed in 2012) to the Environmental Screening Review Report (filed in 2009).

The Project will be located at the site of the former Bala #2 Generating Station (1924-1972), adjacent to the existing MNR North Bala Dam in Bala, Ontario. The Project will be operated in accordance with the current Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

The Project was awarded a Feed-in Tariff contract by the Ontario Power Authority in 2010 as part of the Green Energy Act. The Green Energy Act is the largest green house gas reduction initiative in North America.

It is estimated that the Bala project will offset an estimated 20,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year for its 50+ year life span. That is equal to removing 3,800 cars & light trucks from the road each year for the life of the project.

The Project will generate \$10.8 Million in spending in the District of Muskoka over the 16-18 month construction period and many Bala businesses have already indicated they can provide both products and services needed during construction.

About Swift River Energy Limited

Swift River Energy Limited is a 100% Canadian owned company with a mandate to develop small, low-impact, run-of-the-river waterpower facilities. It was selected by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 2005 to design and construct the North Bala Falls Small Hydro Project, which originated from provincial policy aimed at developing new clean, renewable, 'green' sources of power generation. Such projects help reduce Ontario's dependence on dirty, coal-fired sources of electricity production.

For more information, please contact:

Karen McGhee, P.Eng., Project Manager

Office: 905-331-9692

Email: kmcghee@m-k-e.ca;

Website: www.balafalls.ca