

**D5 Public Information Centre**



# North Bala

## HYDRO PROJECT



# Purpose of this Preliminary Public Information Centre

1. Receive comments from the public.
2. Provide opportunity for discussion with representatives of Swift River Energy and Hatch Energy.
3. Introduce project to the public prior to the end of the 2007 summer cottage season.

**Please Note: This is the first of two Public Information Centres.**

**The second Information Centre will be held next year when more details of the project are available.**



# North Bala HYDRO PROJECT



## The Project Team



### Who is Swift River Energy?

Swift River Energy Limited (SRE) was founded in 2004 to develop new hydro facilities in Ontario. It is owned by a consortium of senior, experienced developers and financiers. SRE calls upon the expertise of its four founders who have built other power plants in Ontario, developed over 6 million square feet of office space in the Toronto commercial market, and held executive positions in a number of Ontario firms. SRE's Chief Operating Officer is currently Chairman of the Ontario Waterpower Association, and he was founder and President of the firm that built the Misema small hydro plant in Englehart, Ontario.

SRE is providing the necessary financing for this project. Its partners are cognizant of the sensitivity of the Bala area as a tourist, cottage and environmentally sensitive area. Three of its four founders are long-term area cottagers, and one has recently served as cottage association President downstream of the project. They bring a heightened awareness of the special and unique needs of this project. SRE is pleased to have selected Hatch Energy for engineering, environmental screening and project management, and have enlisted Bracebridge Generation, owners of a number of small hydro plants in the area, including the recent and successful High Falls expansion, as advisors and future operators for this plant.



### Who is Hatch Energy?

Since 1924, Hatch Energy (formerly Acres International), has provided its clients with imaginative and practical engineering and management solutions in the hydroelectric field out of its Niagara Falls, Ontario office and other office locations. Hatch Energy has extensive experience in the design and construction of new waterpower facilities in addition to the redevelopment and expansion of existing ones. Recent accomplishments included design, environmental assessment and project management services for the 3-MW Misema Generating Station located in Englehart, Ontario.

These engineering services have taken many forms, tailored to satisfy clients' needs, including services required for the execution and implementation of the North Bala hydro project.

Hatch Energy previously completed the dam safety assessment of the Bala dams for MNR, and the Water Management Plan for the Muskoka River System.

### Bracebridge Generation LTD.

### Who is Bracebridge Generation?

Swift River Energy has entered into an understanding with Bracebridge Generation Ltd. to operate the North Bala power project, including the powerhouse and dam structure.

Bracebridge Generation Ltd. has been in operation since 1894. Bracebridge Generation Ltd., a locally owned and operated firm, is a subsidiary company of Lakeland Holding Ltd. whose shareholders include the municipalities of Bracebridge, Burk's Falls, Huntsville, Magnetawan and Sundridge. Their current assets include four hydro generation facilities in the Bracebridge area.

Bracebridge Generation's services include the generation of environmentally friendly local electricity, while maintaining a high degree of safety and operating standards.



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## Why Build a Waterpower Project?

- Waterpower: Ontario's natural energy source. For the past century, waterpower has been providing clean, renewable, made-in-Ontario energy - with no emissions of any kind. Today, more than one quarter of Ontario's energy supply comes from waterpower, while fully 90% of the province's potential sources of this clean, natural energy remains undeveloped.
- Hydroelectric power is a clean and renewable power source that will help reduce reliance on alternative forms of electricity.
- Most Ontario families want more waterpower. A 2004 Oracle poll showed 92% of Ontario residents have chosen clean waterpower as their preferred replacement for coal-fired plants. Waterpower ranked highest of all alternatives for renewable energy sources.
- Hydroelectric power developments can be relied on to generate power when needed by consumers, providing needed flexibility for the grid operators.
- Waterpower: efficient, cost-effective, long lasting. The average waterpower facility converts energy at a rate of 75%-95% efficiency. Once built, waterpower facilities generate the most cost-effective clean energy in Ontario. Typical generating stations last between 75 and 100 years or more.
- Hydroelectric power will have long-term benefits for generations to come.
- Waterpower means greater energy independence for Ontario. Ontario, with more than 2,000 potential hydroelectric generation sites, is a natural powerhouse for waterpower. Over the past 100 years, only 200 sites have been developed. Continued responsible development of this natural energy source will help make Ontario more energy independent.
- Hydroelectric projects offer the following benefits to the surrounding community:
  - temporary and part-time jobs are created during the construction period
  - indirect economic benefits as a result of these jobs
  - local purchase of goods and services.



# North Bala

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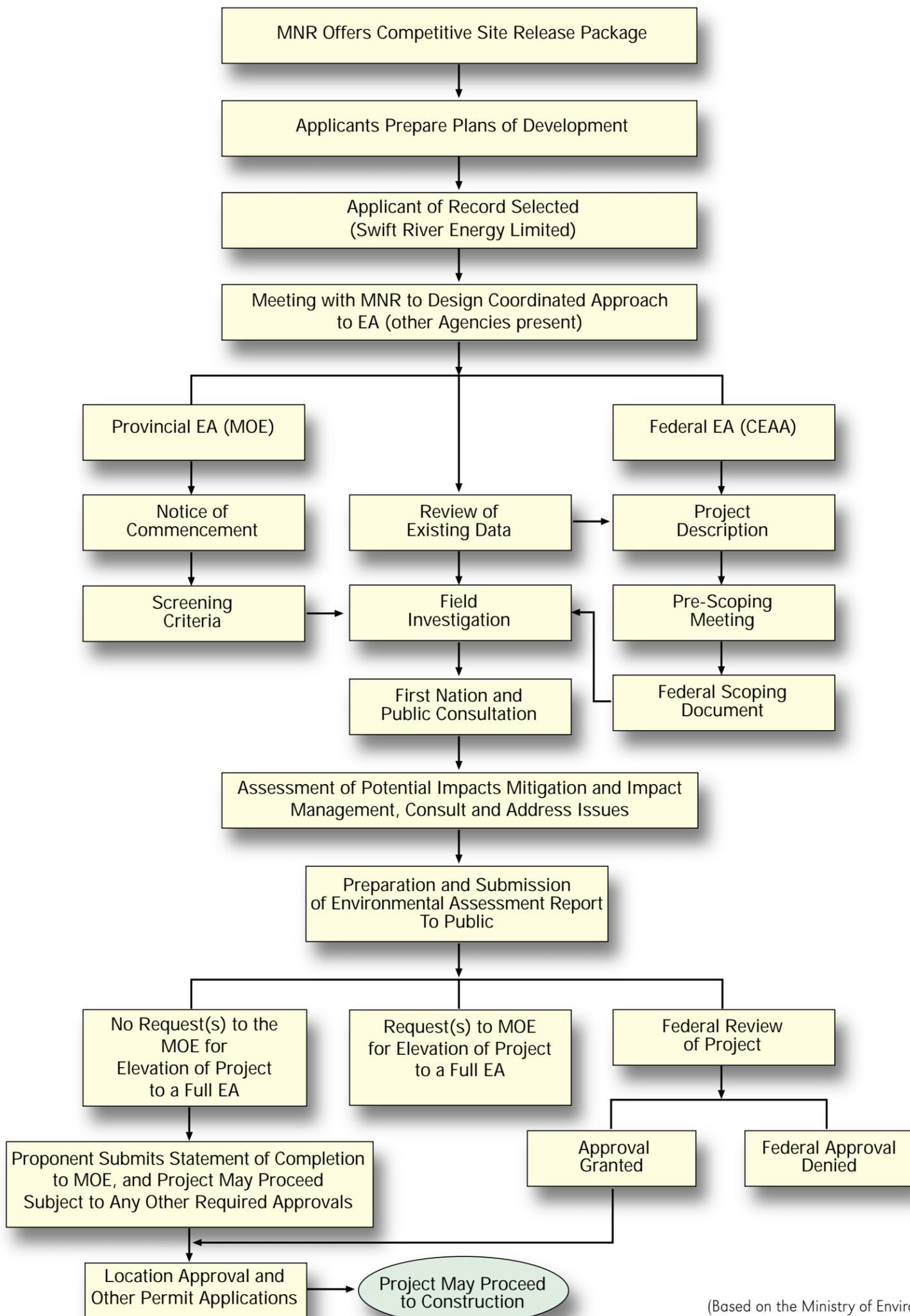
# Project Description and Background

- Swift River Energy (SRE) submitted a Plan of Development to the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in July 2005 in response to MNR's request for proposals for a hydroelectric development at the North Bala Dam site. SRE was awarded Applicant of Record status for the site by MNR in early 2006. A hydropower generating plant existed at this same site several years ago, which no longer exists.
- SRE proposes the construction of a 3 to 4 MW small hydro plant at the south end of the existing North Bala Dam.
- Preserving the attributes of the existing site, such as the falls and rocks downstream of the North Bala Dam and having a sufficient flow of water going over the dam to maintain the natural aesthetics, and safety of the public, will be priorities for SRE.
- The new hydro plant must operate within the terms of the existing Water Management Plan. The Environmental Screening will meet federal and provincial Environmental Assessment requirements.





# Environmental Assessment / Screening Process

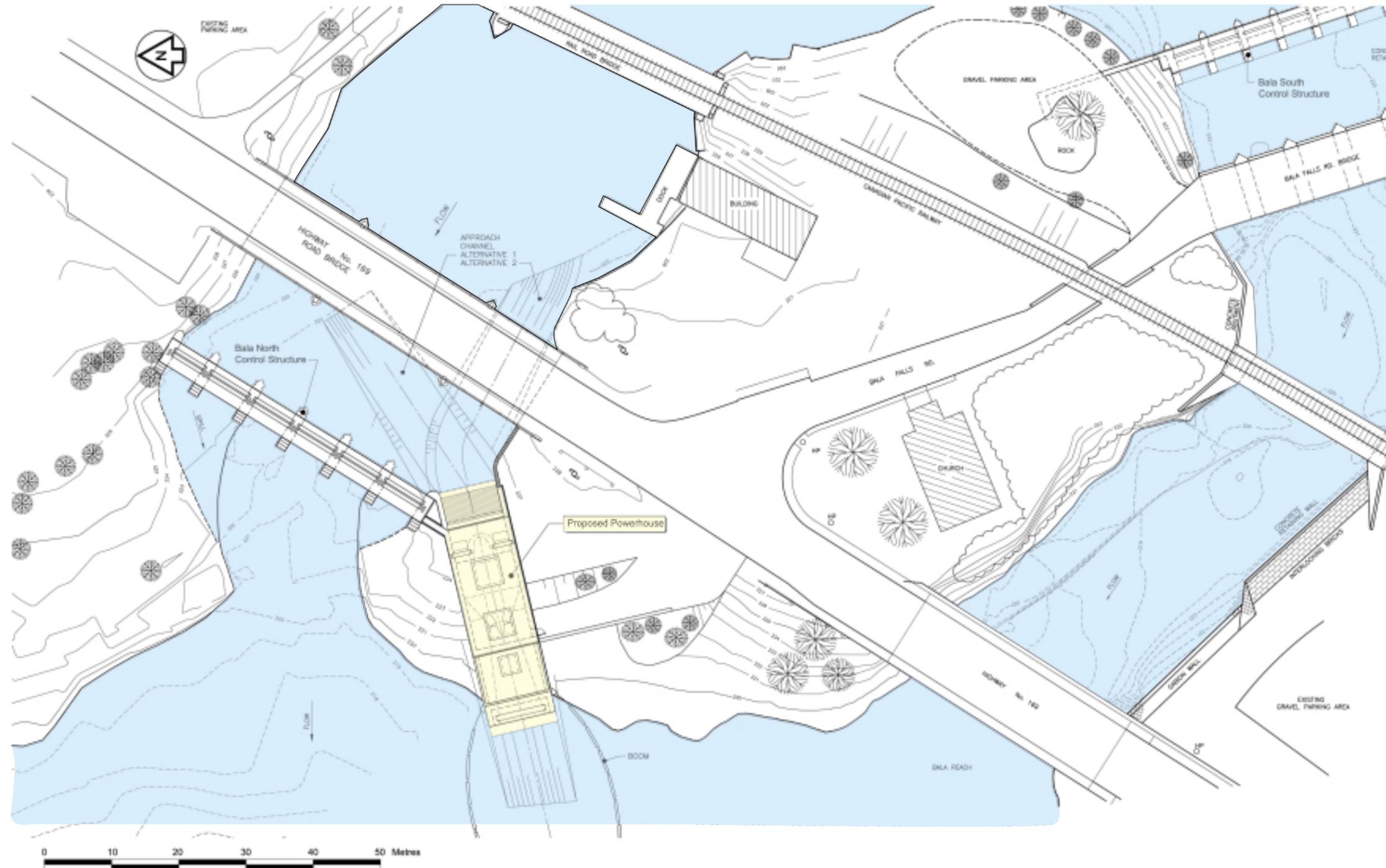


(Based on the Ministry of Environment -  
Guide to Environmental Assessment  
Requirements for Electricity Projects, 2001)

# Plan and General Arrangement



## North Bala HYDRO PROJECT



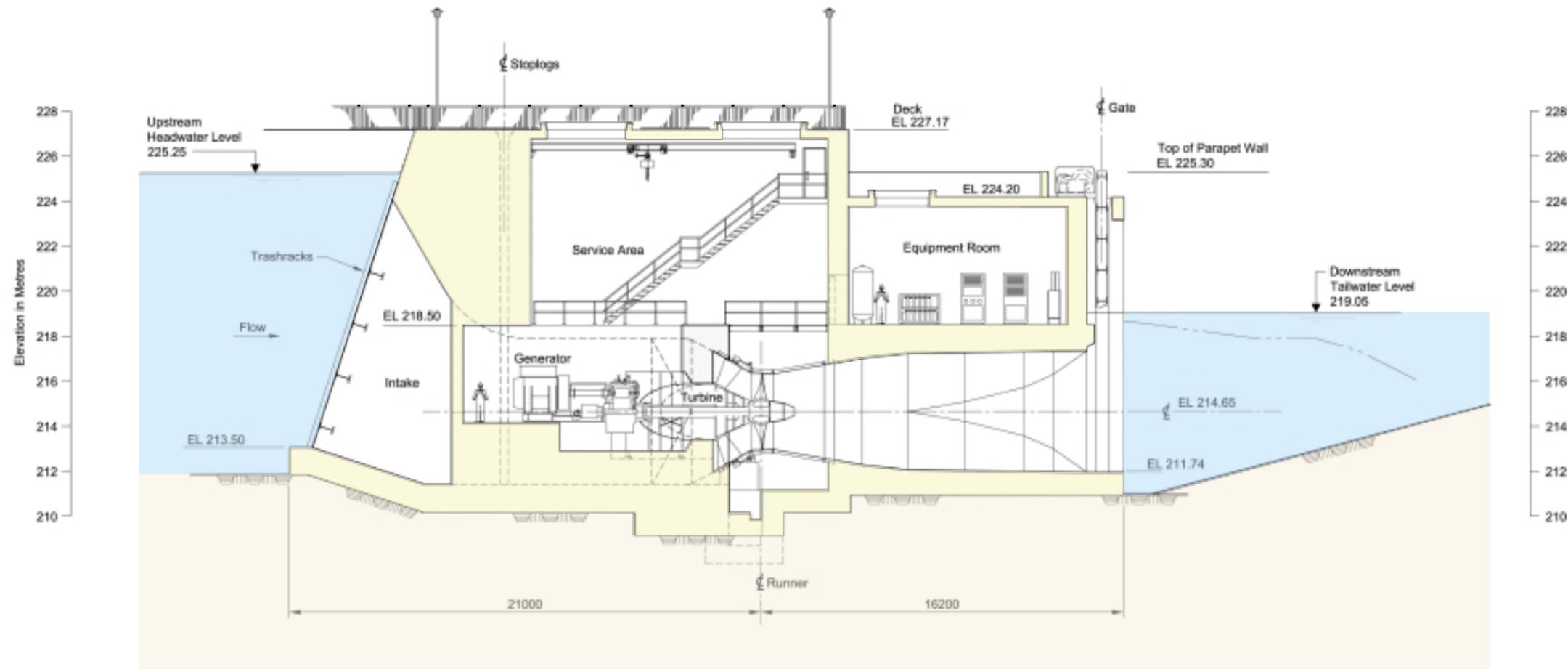
# Proposed Powerhouse

## Longitudinal Profile



# North Bala

HYDRO PROJECT



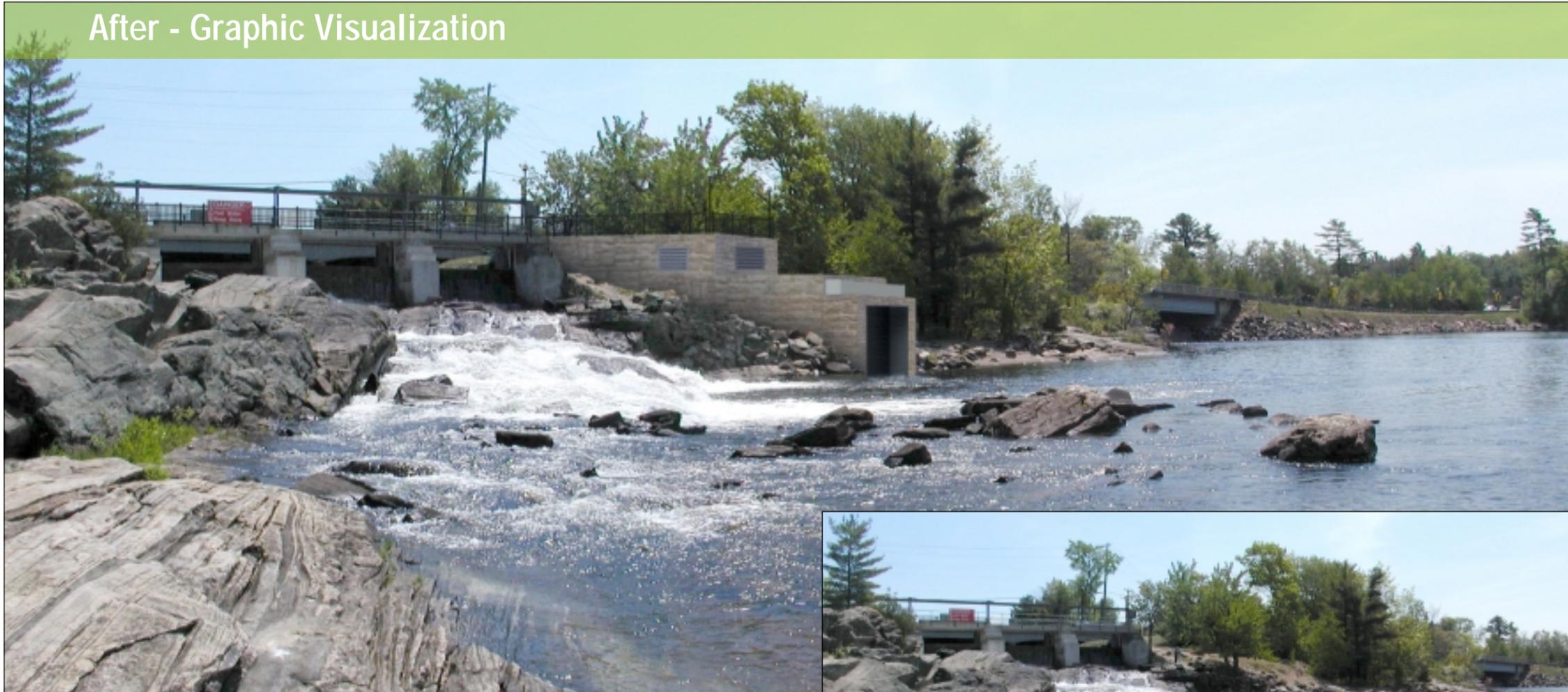
# View of Powerhouse from Downstream North Bank



**North Bala**  
HYDRO PROJECT



After - Graphic Visualization



Before

North Bala Small Hydro Project  
Public Information Centre  
Comment Sheet  
August 29, 2007

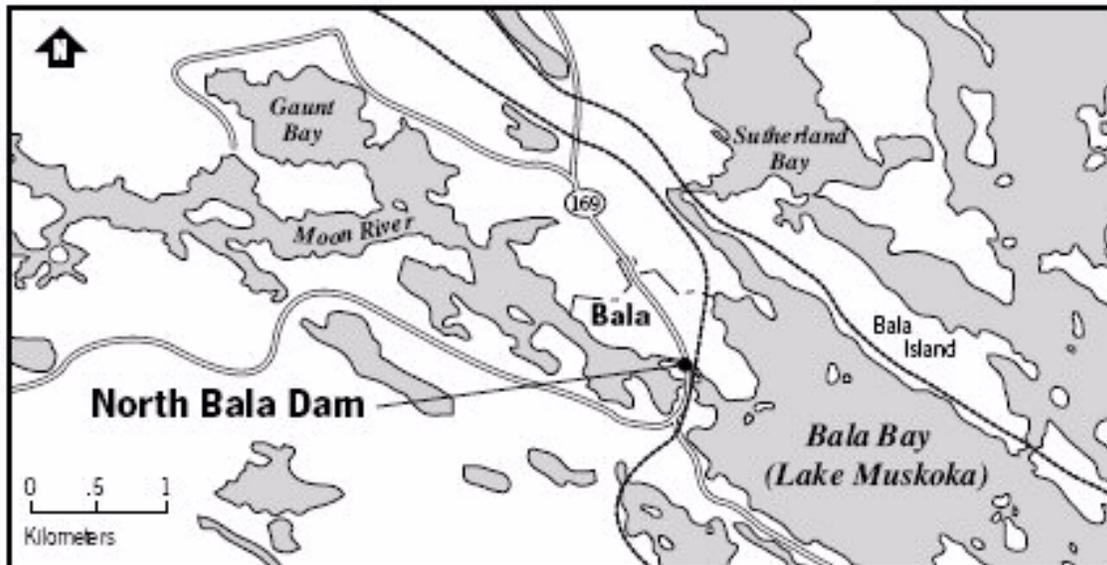


**PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF**

1. Are you a permanent resident of Bala?    Yes    No

If not, where do you permanently reside? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a cottager?    Yes    No



2. Do you use the area in the vicinity of the North Bala Dam?    Yes    No

3. What do you use this area for?    Boating    Canoeing    Kayaking  
Fishing    Seasonal residence    All

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

4. Please provide details regarding your use of the area, such as a description of the activities, the frequency, season or duration of use:

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**ISSUES AND COMMENTS**

**5. Are you generally in favour of the North Bala Small Hydro Project once again supplying green power in the area?**                      Yes      No

**6. Do you have any main concerns with the project?**                      Yes      No

**What are your main concerns related to the project?**

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**7. Please provide any comments, background information or suggestions which you consider relevant to the project:**

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_                      **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Would you like to be included in the Project mailing list?**      Yes              No

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION. WE WELCOME YOUR INPUT.  
PLEASE COMPLETE AND SUBMIT THIS COMMENT SHEET BEFORE LEAVING, OR MAIL  
TO THE ADDRESS BELOW**

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