

December 11, 2016

David Pink, Director of Planning
Township of Muskoka Lakes
1 Bailey Street
Port Carling, ON P0B 1J0
Telephone: 705 765-3156
E-mail: DPink@muskokalakes.ca

Dear Mr. Pink:

Re: Rehabilitation plan for Portage Landing in Bala, Open House, December 8, 2016

Summary

As the proponent's proposed rehabilitation plan would bring danger to the public and liability to the Township, the undersigned request that the Township not approve this plan.

Detail

Due to the very inconvenient time and the threatening weather that day, most concerned people were not able to attend this Open House. To ensure they are made known and in writing, this letter therefore presents some concerns which are shared by all the undersigned, many of whom were not able to attend. Please let me know if you require each of these signatories to separately send you a copy of this letter.

1) Unacceptable proponent response and insufficient notification

- a) The proponent was e-mailed at info@balafalls.ca (as provided at their web site) three days in advance of this Open House asking how people who could not attend could learn about these plans and provide comment. The proponent has not responded to this.
- b) There was such short notice for this Open House that the article in the print edition of the Gravenhurst Banner was published on the same day as the event. People do not visit the Township's web site for such information, and the proponent's web site had not been updated in over a year, so people certainly don't visit there for information.

The effort to notify the public of this event was therefore unacceptable.

2) Unprecedented danger

- a) It would be unprecedented to locate a hydro-electric generating station in the middle of a popular in-water recreational area, as confirmed by my visiting and carefully examining the situation at more than 32 similarly-sized hydro-electric generating stations in southern Ontario.
- b) As proven by the 2008 drowning of a 16-year-old boy at the Wilson's Falls generating station, the tailrace flow from hydro-electric generating stations is deadly dangerous to nearby in-water recreation.
 - The proposed Bala generating station would have **ten times** the flow of the Wilson's Falls generating station, so the proposed Bala generating station would be even more dangerous.

- The MNRF requires that the public be warned before flow into the Moon River is increased. But the proponent has stated they would not do this, even though their proposed generating station would have no local operator and would often start at about noon on summer days.

3) Rehabilitation plan would bring **danger to the public** and **liability to the Township**

- a) This proposed rehabilitation plan would encourage in-water recreation directly adjacent to the deadly and treacherously-turbulent water exiting the proposed generating station.
- b) This extremely dangerous water would extend outside of the proponent's proposed downstream safety boom. People expect that safety booms delimit dangerous areas, so the public would be deceived into thinking the water was safe outside the safety boom, therefore increasing the danger.
- c) This proposed rehabilitation plan includes building a portage on Township property, just a few feet from the proposed generating station's tailrace flow. This portage being on Township land, and the Township approving this rehabilitation plan and portage would therefore bring liability to the Township and encourage people to canoe right through this treacherously-turbulent water.

Conclusion

The Township of Muskoka Lakes voting to approve this rehabilitation plan would bring danger to the public, and bring liability to the Township of Muskoka Lakes. The undersigned therefore request that this rehabilitation plan not be accepted by the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier and ...

Marg Bartlett

Peter Black

Brad and Christine Burgess

Tim Burgess

Robin Bush

Julie Cousineau

Drew Cowern

Dan Dobson

Ted Farley

Cassandra Ford

Martin Ford

Jana Foster

Laurie Graham

Donna and Gerry Grassby

Will Grassby

Jim Hedrich

Bea Keeler

John Keeler

Kerry Keeler

Robin Keeler

Harry and Lynda Littler

Bob Macfarlane

Barbara MacIntosh

Cathy Malcolmson

John McDonald

Tim McDonald

Scott McLean

Carol McNeil

Dan and Andrew McNeil

Michael Murton

Dinny and Neil Nimmo

Cheryl Pepper

Glenda Pepper

Lynda Petrie

Bill Purkis

Lloyd Scheirer

John Schnarr

Ann Sheffar

Michelle Smith

Ron Snow

Andrew Spears

Jamie Spears

Michael and Linda Spears

Sara Spears

Erin Steckenreiter

Lindsay Steckenreiter

Peter Steckenreiter

Carol Truemner

Heather Truemner

Marilyn Truemner

Victoria Truemner

*Linda Turcott
Allan Turnbull*

*Eleanor Kee Wellman
Brent Wilson*

*Deborah Ylanko
Glenn Zavitz*

Cc: Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, Minister.MNRF@ontario.ca
Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, GMurray.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Norm Miller, MPP for Parry Sound – Muskoka, Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org
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