

August 8, 2017

Anne Collins  
Project Coordinator (Acting), Parry Sound District, Southern Region  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
7 Bay Street  
Parry Sound, ON P2A 1S4  
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Dear Ms. Collins:

**Re: Proposed Hydro-electric Generating Station at the Bala Falls**

While I continue to await a response to my July 16, 2017 letter to you requesting to meet concerning several serious and unaddressed issues for this proposed project, the following more urgent issues have just come to our attention:

- 1) In a letter dated August 2, 2017 to me, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change states: *“SREL has updated the public safety measures plan for the Bala dams to identify and address potential hazards created by the dams and operations of the facility.”*

However, previously we have been informed that the PSMP would be updated only *after* the Phase 2 Plans and Specifications approval had been issued.

- a) If the proponent has updated the PSMP, could you forward a copy to me.
- 2) I understand the proponent has recently submitted a new design for their proposed upstream cofferdam.
  - a) I have several concerns including; how forces would be equalized between the tie-backs that would support it, how would the “doors” be operated during flow, would there be a window of time when the cofferdam could not be “lowered”, and what would be the upstream cross-sectional area of all the components remaining when all “doors” are opened (including the frame and any method used to seal it to the riverbed).
  - b) The public has a right of consultation. As these are new plans which have therefore not been subject to the environmental assessment process, I therefore request to see the drawings submitted for this cofferdam design.

I look forward to a timely response as I understand the MNRF is currently assessing the proponent’s Phase 2 Plans and Specifications application.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: The Honourable Kathryn McGarry, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, KMcGarry.mpp@liberal.ola.org  
The Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, CBallard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org  
Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound – Muskoka, Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org