

August 17, 2017

Fred Jahn
Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works
District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3
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Hello Mr. Jahn:

Re: Proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls

- 1) I appreciated the opportunity to present some of our concerns of the risks to the District Municipality of Muskoka's public infrastructure both in our meeting on July 24, 2017 and in my follow-up letter dated August 1, 2017.

While you indicated that there would be a transparent process and answers to questions would be provided, it now appears the District intends to issue approvals to the proponent before responding to these questions or even making available the information the District has received from others concerning these risks.

- 2) As presented in the attached letter, there is an additional risk to the District's Muskoka Road 169 bridge over the Bala north channel and the adjacent road, as follows:
 - a) If there was a heavy rainstorm during the proposed construction, to avoid flooding Lake Muskoka, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has requires that for flood mitigation, the proponent remove their upstream cofferdam on 24 hours notice.
 - b) The intake excavation for the proposed construction would be more than 20' below the level of the riverbed of the Bala north channel. It therefore appears there would be windows of time during such flood mitigation when all of the flow through the Bala north channel would be through the proponent's excavation and construction site. Such flow could be more than 200 m³/s, which could undermine the south abutment of the District's bridge, and could wash away the excavation shoring supporting the adjacent section of Muskoka Road 169.

I request that the District not issue any construction approvals to the proponent until a transparent decision-making process has been demonstrated, including providing the public with answers to the questions noted above.

I would hope that the District's top priorities are protecting public infrastructure, making transparent decisions, and providing evidence of this.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: Norm Miller, MPP Parry Sound – Muskoka, Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org

Phil Harding, District Councillor, and Chair, Engineering and Public Works Committee, District Municipality of Muskoka, Phil.Harding@districtcouncil.ca