

From: Kathleen Wynne <premier@premier.gov.on.ca>

Date: September 14, 2017 at 12:15:55 PM EDT

To: Undisclosed recipients::

Subject: An e-mail from the Premier of Ontario

Thank you for taking the time to send your correspondence. I appreciate your sharing your concerns about the Swift River hydro project in Bala.

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. Ontario has made great progress towards reducing its greenhouse gas emissions. This includes the announcement of a cap and trade program, the establishment of a 2030 mid-term target for greenhouse gas pollution reduction, the closure of all coal-fired power plants and the largest infrastructure investment in Ontario's history. The province's decision to end coal-fired power is the single largest greenhouse gas reduction initiative in North America - equivalent to taking seven million cars off the road.

Our government supports renewable energy projects that help create clean energy. Our priority is to make sure projects are developed safely and in a way that protects the environment and community health. Electricity projects such as this one must go through a comprehensive environmental screening process overseen by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC). This process requires companies to assess any environmental impacts, describe mitigation measures and consult with members of the community, including First Nations.

MOECC worked closely with numerous agencies including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada to review the project and to address consultation with the public and Aboriginal communities. Following this review, MOECC concluded that the Bala Falls project could operate safely and meet the provincial standards that are in place to protect health and the environment.

Once again, thank you for raising this matter with me. Please accept my best wishes.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario

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