

January 3, 2018

Frank Belerique, Vice-President  
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Hello Mr. Belerique:

- 1) I continue to look forward to a response from you for my letter of December 10, 2017.
- 2) We have several concerns about the ability to actually remove panels from the cofferdam as would be needed to avoid flooding Lake Muskoka due to a high flow event:
  - a) As shown in the photograph below, the shoreline beside the wing wall at the south end of the Bala north dam is now substantially below the level of that wing wall. If cofferdam panels were removed, water would then flow over the shoreline, which would be unacceptable for many reasons, such as washing deleterious materials into the Moon River.
  - b) Lowering the cofferdam would require hoisting up the panels, but this would require someone to be at those panels to secure the hoisting cables to the lifting points at the top of each panel. This would not be possible with the unsafe ice which will be there for several months now.



- c) Also, someone would need to be at the frames to guide the panels back into the frames to re-install the cofferdam panels. So this too would not be possible due to the unsafe ice conditions.
- d) The ice would jam the panels in their frames, or if they were forced out or in it would damage the rubber gasket required to seal the panel to the frame.

It therefore seems that it would not actually be possible to remove panels from this cofferdam, so you could not fulfill the requirements of your approval under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act.

Please respond with how you would address these issues, I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: Anne Collins, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Anne.Collins@ontario.ca  
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