

February 2, 2018

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

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

To meet the conditions of their approvals required by the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* and as required by your Ministry, in the next four weeks, the proponent will need to build a temporary dam approximately 50' wide and 12' high, as shown below.



This temporary dam would need to be in place during the spring freshet, which is when the flow through the Bala north channel is the greatest and most unpredictable.

The proponent has also stated they intend to continue blasting and excavation work adjacent to this temporary dam, during the spring freshet.

This temporary dam would be crucial infrastructure, just as the Bala north and south dams are, holding back all the water from Lake Muskoka.

The detailed Plans and Specifications for this temporary dam would therefore need to be reviewed and approved by a Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Professional

Engineer, just as the Plans and Specifications for the other parts of this proposed project had to be approved by your Ministry.

This temporary dam would be on public property, the MNRF has the responsibility to maintain water levels according to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, and a failure would be disastrous to; private property, public infrastructure, and to the environment. I understand that reviewing such crucial infrastructure Plans and Specifications typically requires at least 60 days by the MNRF. As this is an extremely unusual situation, please reply:

- 1) Is this review following the MNRF's usual Plans and Specifications review process.
- 2) Have detailed and complete drawings and design calculations for this temporary dam, sealed by a Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Ontario, been submitted to the MNRF for approval.
- 3) If so, when were these Plans and Specifications submitted.
- 4) Does the proponent now have all approvals required from the MNRF to build this temporary dam.
- 5) If not, what issues are outstanding.
- 6) Do these design calculations include modelling for the constriction created by the concrete wall the proponent has recently constructed on the south side of the outflow of the Bala north falls.
- 7) What design provisions have been made so that the proponent's proposed blasting and excavation can proceed while this temporary dam is in place.

I look forward to your reply to the above questions, as well as to my previous and still outstanding request to meet with you or your staff on these issues of risk to private property and public infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

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