

LETTERS

Are Bala Falls proponents dreaming in Technicolour?

In the early 1950s I was privileged to work at Ontario's five largest hydroelectric projects, then under construction, and owned by the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission: Des Joachims, Ottawa River; Chenux, Ottawa River; La Cave (Otto Holden), Ottawa River; Saunders-Moses, Seaway, St. Lawrence River; Sir Adam Beck No. 2 (SA B#2), Niagara Falls.

In working with senior staff and executives of Ontario Hydro, I was afforded the opportunity to learn the reasons for, the trade-offs, the various costs, and the expected benefits in the siting and construction of a hydroelectric facility.

From 1955 to the present, as a professional engineer I have worked in Ontario's provincial and municipal construction industry.

It is from the aforementioned experience that I have considered the Bala Falls proposal.

1. IESO's March 15, 2009 report indicated that the total daily generating capability is transmitted through Ontario's Hydro Grid System.

2. Since the 1950s, Ontario has had a reciprocal agreement with New York State Power Authority, and more recently

with Hydro Quebec for import/export of electricity.

3. The current Ontario government has pledged \$40 billion "to ensure that Ontario gets 50 per cent of its power from nukes" (The Globe and Mail, Feb. 26, 2009).

4. It is understood that the Bala Falls proposal would generate 4.3 MW of electricity.

When the facts are put into focus, it seems clear that the proposal cannot justify either disruption to Bala and the general public, which would be caused by construction, or the legacy at Bala Falls.

If the government is really serious about shortage of generating capability in Ontario, it would seem both logical and reasonable to now release perhaps \$10 billion of the \$40-billion pledged by Mr. (George) Smitherman to enable the private sector to construct new and additional nuclear generating facilities.

And if any organization local to Bala or otherwise believes that it could negotiate meaningful and significant benefit in a financial manner by the Bala Falls proposal, it could best be described as dreaming in Technicolor.

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