

June 30, 2010

Ms. Agatha Garcia-Wright  
Director  
Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch  
2 St. Clair Avenue West  
Floor 12A  
Toronto ON M4V 1L5  
Telephone: 416 314-8001  
E-mail: Agatha.GarciaWright@ontario.ca

Dear Ms Garcia-Wright:

**Re: Proposed Bala Falls Hydro-Electric Generating Station**

Thank you for your letter dated May 14, 2010 informing us that the proponent for the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the north Bala Falls has been required to conduct further study.

I would like to raise the following requests and questions:

- 1) We appreciate your acknowledgement that important and required information has not been forthcoming from the proponent. When would I be able to review information provided by the proponent as a result of this further study.
- 2) Your letter notes this further study concerns “navigation matters and economic impacts”. Could you provide me with detail showing the specific questions to which the proponent is to respond.
- 3) Could you let me know the level of detail expected. For example:
  - a) Would reporting on the economic impacts require:
    - Interviewing area business owners to better understand the impacts of previous construction work.
    - Interviewing tourists to better understand what draws tourists to the area, and how the loss of public shoreline or the appearance of the proposed power station would affect this.
  - b) Would reporting on the navigational concerns require:
    - Reporting where portage access would actually be safe (due to the grade of the slope approaching the water, or the proximity of the fast water exiting the proposed tailrace).
    - Explaining how a concave safety boom could allow self-rescue.
- 4) When would I be able to review other information which the proponent has submitted to the Ministry of the Environment subsequent to submission of their environmental screening report.
- 5) Finally, I note that:
  - a) The municipal elections in the District Municipality of Muskoka are October 25, 2010 (less than 120 days from now).

- b) Land owned by the District Municipality of Muskoka is required for the proposed project.
- c) The District Municipality of Muskoka has not provided final agreement that this land will in fact be made available.
- d) This proposed project is of great concern to the area's voters and is sure to be a major election issue.
- e) The next District Council may withdraw their support for providing the required land for this project.

Therefore, to avoid possible wasting your Ministry's and other's time and resources, we respectfully request that the Ministry of the Environment temporarily halt further work on this file until it is clear that the people of Muskoka have in fact given their support to their elected representatives to make District land available for this proposed project.

Thank you for your time, we look forward to a continued and constructive dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell Shnier".

Mitchell Shnier

cc: Mr. Michael Harrison, Supervisor, Project Review Unit, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch  
Ms. Millicent Dixon, Manager – Client Services, Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch