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Independent Economic Impact Study of the North Bala Small Hydro Project concludes “Economic Benefits Of The Project Are Significant”

Toronto, ON – November 4, 2010 –The independent Economic Impact Study prepared by the Centre For Spatial Economics (C4SE) is complete. This study investigated both the short and long term economic impacts of the SREL’s proposed Bala Falls Small Hydro Project, including surveying over 100 local businesses. Conclusions from the study state that the project’s economic impacts will be positive. Highlights of the Study’s conclusions include:

- Many Bala businesses are in a position to provide products or services needed during the construction phase of the project.
- Over the construction phase the District of Muskoka stands to benefit from \$3.6 million of additional labour income, 65 person years of work and \$155,000 in municipal revenues.
- Local spending in the District of Muskoka is estimated to be \$10.8 million generating an additional \$5.5 million in GDP in the region.
- Over the operational phase the District benefits from an annual increase in labour income of \$373,000, the creation of 5 new jobs and annual municipal tax gains of \$75,000.
- The Province will gain an additional \$7 million in GDP over the construction phase and an additional \$2.6 million of GDP annually over the operation phase.

“In other words the economic benefits of the project are significant”.

The study finds that there is potential for the Bala Community to share in these economic benefits both:

- Directly through participation of local businesses in supplying goods and services to SREL in both construction and operational phases of the project, and
- Indirectly through the cascading effects this increased construction–induced business would have on other business activities in the area.

SREL would like to thank all the local businesses that participated in the survey and the Township of Muskoka Lakes and the Muskoka Lakes Chamber of Commerce for their assistance with the development of the survey and business list.

SREL remains committed to working with the community on this renewable energy project that will help Ontario realize its goals under the Green Energy Act and help to stimulate the local economy. The Green Energy Act is the single largest green house gas reduction initiative in all of North America.

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