# Proposed Bala Falls Power Station

## *Inconsistent Information Provided*

SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Presented to the District Municipality of Muskoka, Engineering & Public Works Committee, 2011 02 23

# The View?

- The proponent says the proposed hydro-electric power station at the north Bala Falls would have
  - … an “easily accessed water’s edge lookout”
  - … a “commanding view westward”
  - … a “grand view down river”

# No, a Blocked View

- But the proponent's own drawings show a 5'-high, 25'-wide roller gate hoist mechanism blocking the view
  - And the top of the 30'-wide roller gate
  - And the 4' x 3½' emergency egress hatch and guardrail
  - Would people even be allowed on the lookout as there is a 44 kV, 5 MVA transformer and switchgear directly below

# A Blocked View

Observation deck

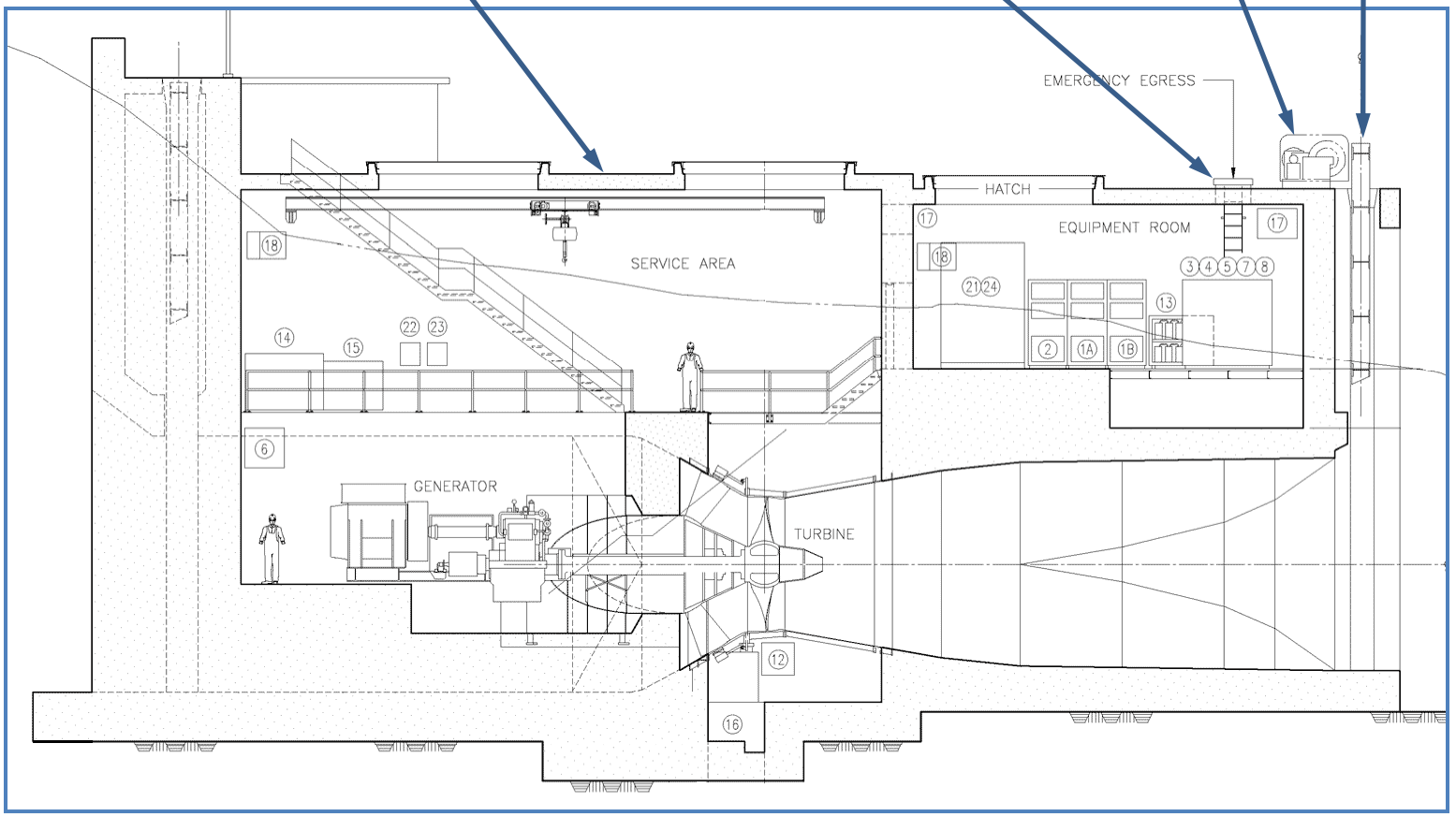
4' x 3½' emergency egress hatch and guardrail

5'-high hoist mechanism

25'-wide tailrace roller gate

⬅ District Road 169

Moon River ➡




Vertical Cross-section of Proposed Hydro-electric Power Station

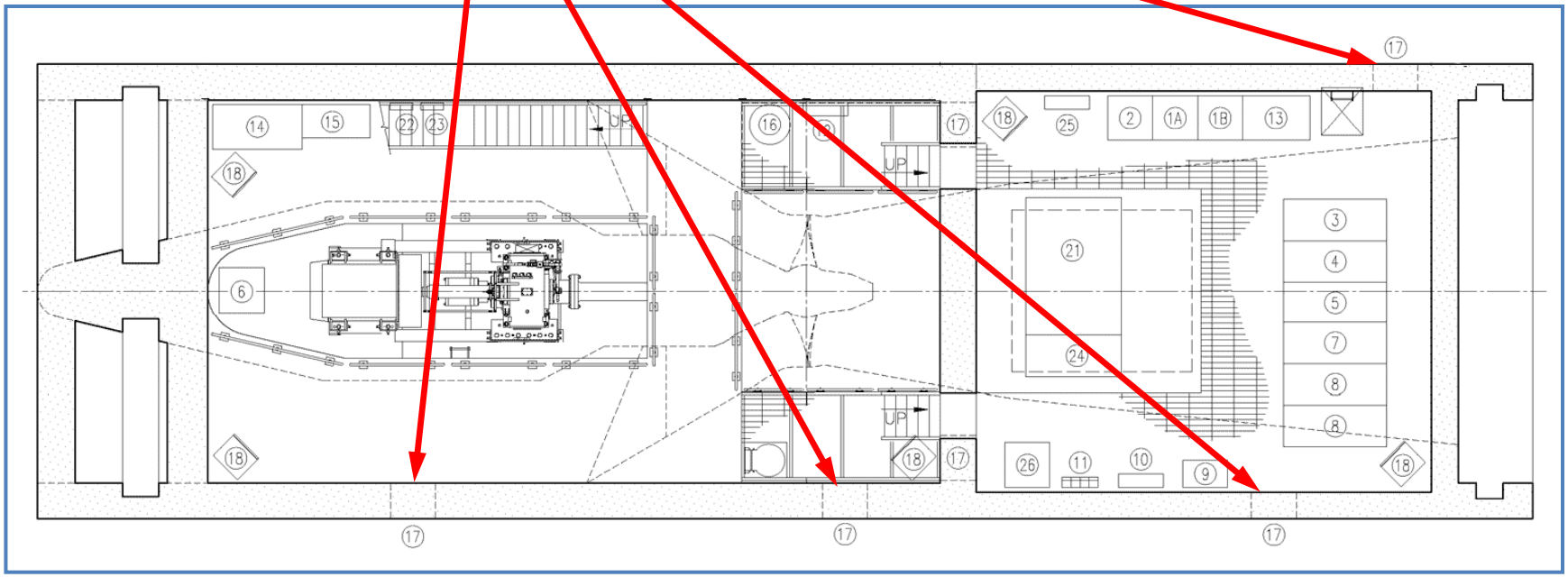
# A Park-like Setting?

- The proponent says the lookout would create
  - " … Parkland"
  - " … a public park"
  - " … a park-like setting"
- And
  - "A gentle path steps visitors down to the old shore …"

# No, an Industrial Setting

- 86,000 watts of heat need to be exhausted
  - Even if the generator and step-up transformer were 99% efficient
  - Three exhaust fans, each 3½'-wide x 2½'-high blow hot air out the north side (and another blows south)

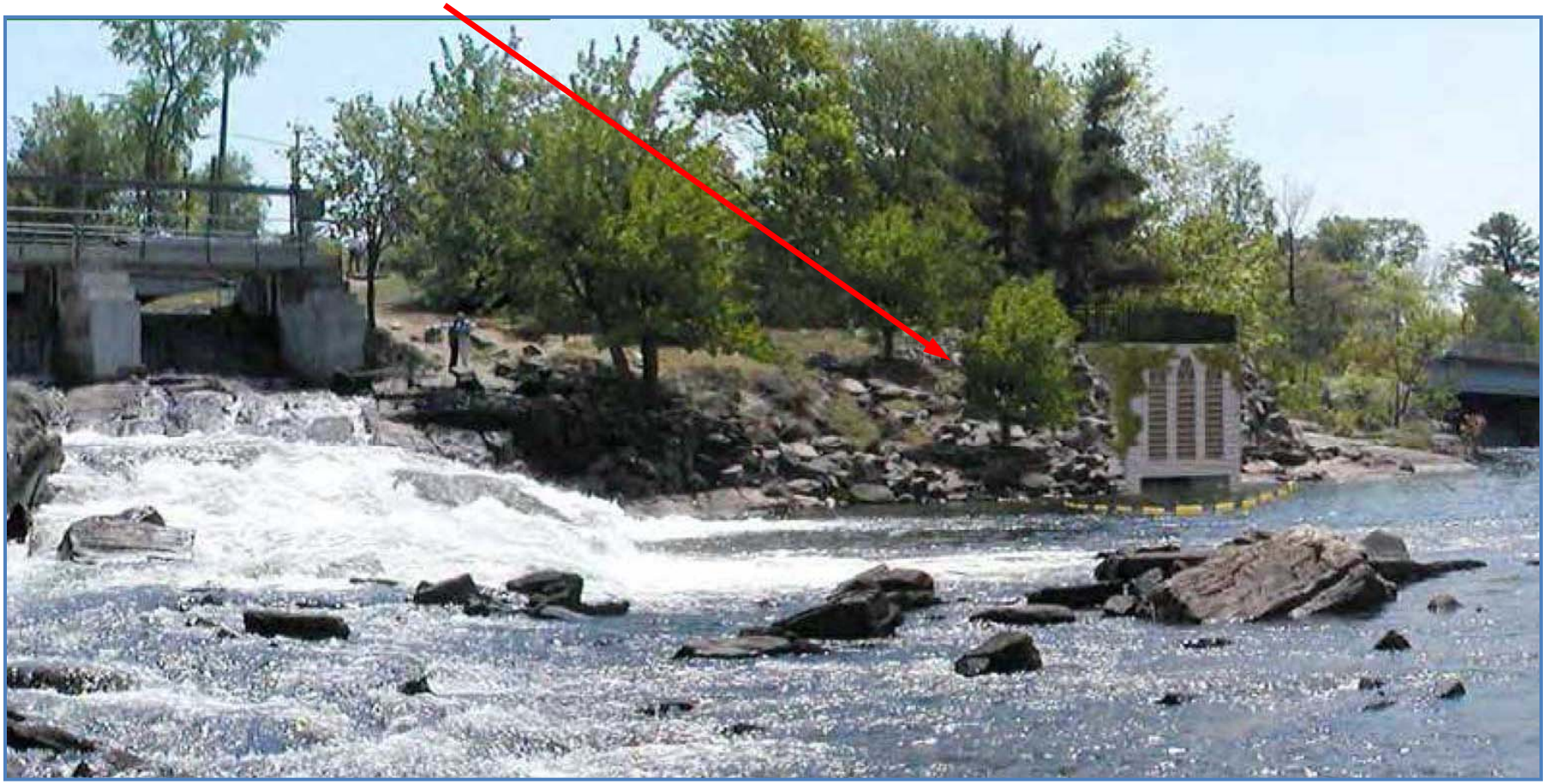
⬅ District Road 169 Moon River ➡




Horizontal Cross-section of Proposed Hydro-electric Power Station

# An Industrial Setting

- Except the landscaping on the north side doesn't allow for these fans

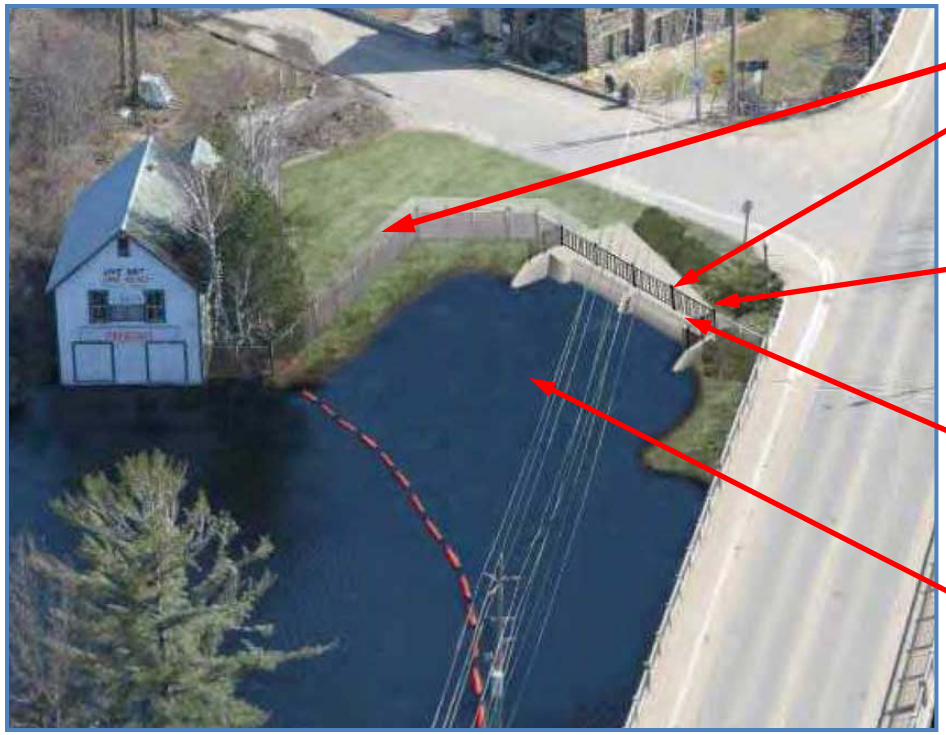


# An Industrial Setting

- And how much noise and vibration would be produced by the six ventilation fans (there are two more inside)
  - … and the turbine, generator, transformer, and inverter
- The proponent's noise calculations ignore most of the fans, the turbine, generator, and inverter
  - And assumes the building would be solid concrete, even though noise would escape through the fan openings and roof hatches
  - And assumes listeners would be over 100 m away
- Still not known if a siren and strobe light needed

# The Intake

- The intake is shown as a calm pond surrounded by grass
  - But to prevent erosion, the sides of the intake would need to be concrete all the way to the channel
    - And the water would be moving at a high velocity



Where are the huge red warning signs

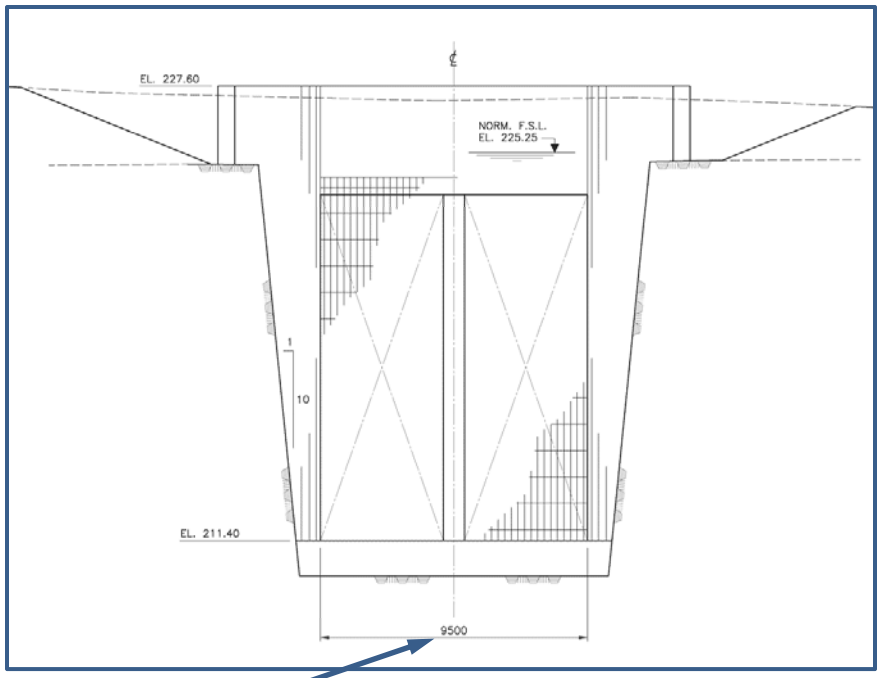
Will there need to be barbed-wire fencing – the same proposed operator has installed this at their other sites in the area

Need more room for guy cleaning trash rack and his safety harness anchor

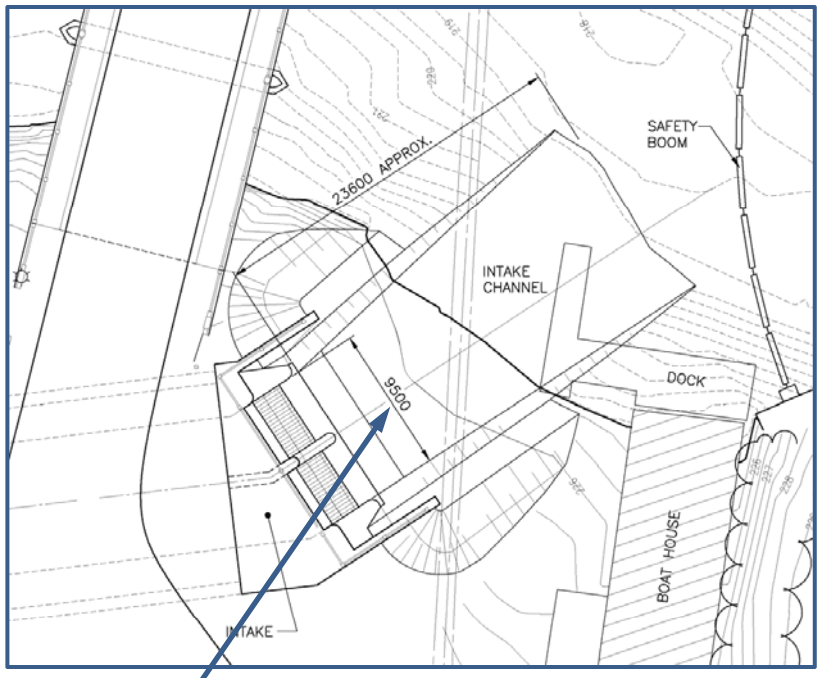
Up to 80 tons of water per second into the intake

# The Intake

- The proponent agreed the width of the intake would need to be increased to 11.6 m
  - Yet the drawings still show the intake as 9.5 m wide



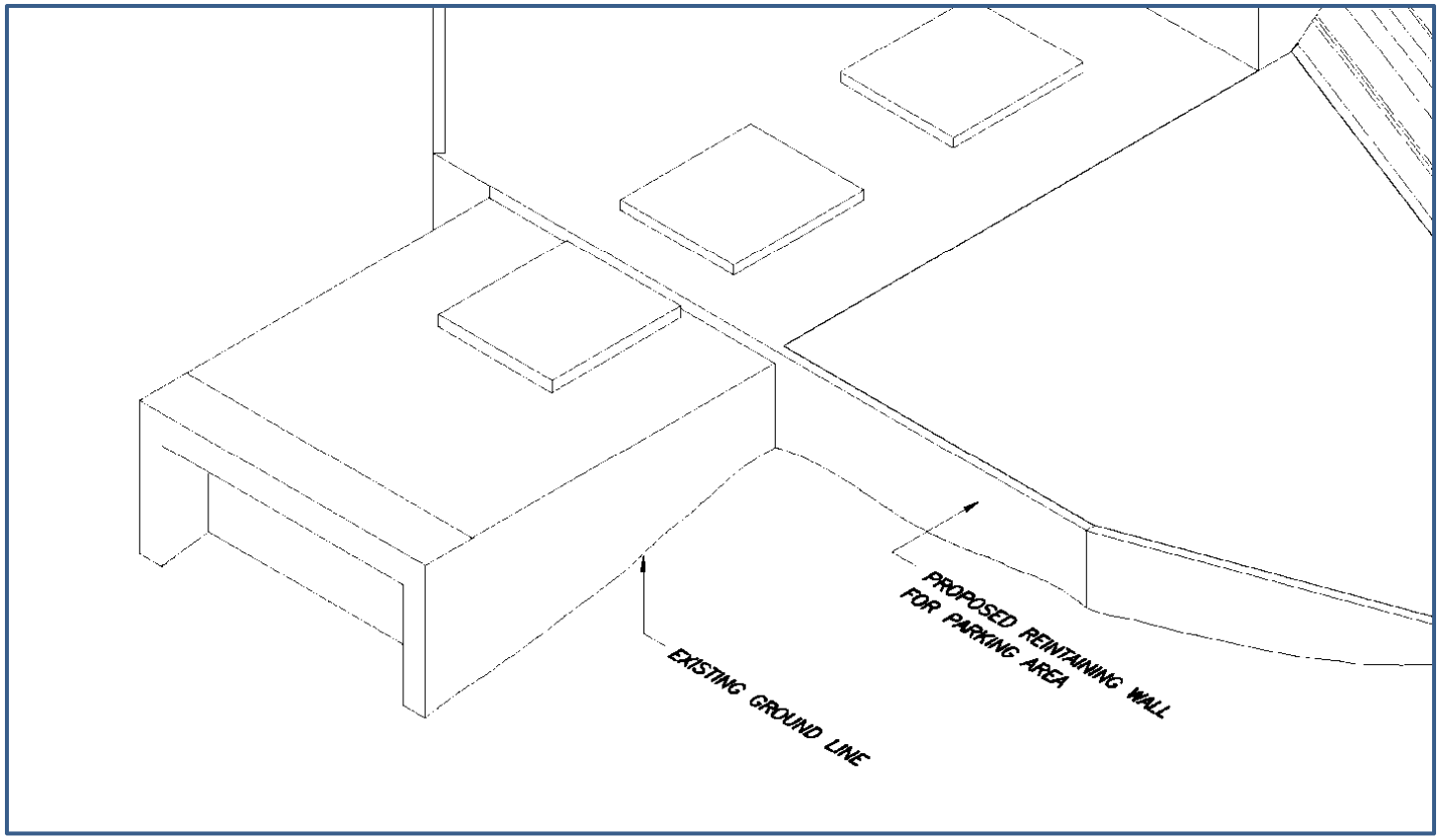

9.5 m




9.5 m

# Retaining Walls

- No information presented for the driveway retaining wall (height, location, length, fencing …)



# Many Other Concerns

- Completion bond
- Toilet
- Elevations (including entrance and fencing above it, coverplates for intake bulkhead and tailrace roller gates)
- Oil-water separator
- Roof stormwater handling
- Installation:
  - Cranes (location, reach, months when on-site)
  - Materials storage
  - Summer traffic queue lengths and delays

# In Summary

- Information provided by the proponent is incomplete, inconsistent, and incorrect
  - After we've been asking for this to be clarified for over a year