

**Ministry of the Environment**

Environmental Assessment and  
Approvals Branch

2 St. Clair Avenue West  
Floor 12A  
Toronto ON M4V 1L5  
Tel.: 416 314-8001  
Fax: 416 314-8452

**Ministère de l'Environnement**

Direction des évaluations et des  
autorisations environnementales

2, avenue St. Clair Ouest  
Étage 12A  
Toronto ON M4V 1L5  
Tél. : 416 314-8001  
Télééc. : 416 314-8452



AUG 05 2011

ENV1283MC-2011-2232-1

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Dear M :

Thank you for your July 24, 2011 correspondence in which you raise concerns with Swift River Energy Limited's (SREL) proposed North Bala Small Hydro Project (Project). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Ministry of the Environment.

As you are aware, the Project is currently being developed by SREL under the Environmental Screening Process (ESP). The ESP is described in the Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects, March 2001 (Guide). The Guide can be found on the MOE's web site at: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4021e.pdf>.

Currently, the Minister of the Environment (Minister) is reviewing the decision of the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (Director) to deny the elevation requests submitted for the Project. On the basis of this review and other matters required to be considered by the Minister under the ESP, the Minister will make a decision about whether or not to confirm or vary the Director's decision. Your email will be placed in the public file for this Project and you will be notified of the Minister's decision when it is made.

If the Minister decides to confirm the decision of the Director, SREL will be authorized under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) to proceed with the Project under the ESP to completion. If the Minister decides to vary the Director's decision and require SREL to prepare an individual environmental assessment (EA), SREL may no longer obtain approval for the Project under the ESP, but must instead obtain approval under Part II of the EAA, requiring the preparation of a Terms of Reference and an individual EA. In this event, the Minister ultimately decides whether or not the Project should proceed.

I would like to note that the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (EAAB) maintains a public file that is available for viewing by any member of the public upon request. Please note that personal and other information in your email such as name, address, and telephone number and your concerns with this Project will form a part of the public record on this matter. If you wish this information to be excluded from the public file, this Branch must be advised. Notwithstanding the above, this information may still be obtained by members of the public if the ministry is required to disclose it under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.



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Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns regarding this Project. If you have any questions regarding the Project, please call Mr. Adam Sanzo of this Branch at 416-314-8229.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Harrison  
Supervisor, Project Review Unit  
Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch

c: EA File No. 06-07 North Bala Small Hydro Project