

June 29, 2012

Ms. Agatha Garcia-Wright, Director,
Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Approvals Branch
2 St. Clair Avenue West, Floor 12A
Toronto, ON M4V 1L5

E-mail: Agatha.GarciaWright@ontario.ca

Dear Ms. Garcia-Wright:

**Re: Notice of Filing of Addendum,
Proposed Hydro-electric Generating Station at the Bala Falls**

We are very concerned that the above Addendum presents a project that would have far more significant negative environmental impacts, more serious public safety issues, and more negative economic impacts than for the project previously proposed in the Environmental Screening Report.

Also, as noted in our e-mail of June 7, 2012 to you, this Addendum presents new plans that have never before been shown to the public.

Accordingly we retained an environmental consultant to peer-review the proponent's Environmental Screening Report and Addendum and to advise on whether the Addendum provisions of the *Guide to Environmental Assessment Requirements for Electricity Projects* should apply for this situation.

We therefore attach the following:

- A technical report presenting our outstanding environmental concerns.
- A peer-review from Dillon Consulting Limited. Among other findings, their opinion is that *"the Addendum Provisions were not meant to be used to justify changes of this magnitude to the original project."*

In our June 7, 2012 e-mail to you we also noted the proponent refused our request to extend the 30-day public comment period for the Addendum as we found the changes presented in it were significant. Sometime after late in the day June 28, 2012, and less than a day before the public comments were due, the proponent changed their Addendum posted on their web site from Revision 2 to Revision 3 with no detail provided as to what in the 84-page document was changed. We have found the changes include at least text explaining their proposed cycling operation, so are significant. We therefore repeat our request that the 30-day public comment period be extended.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: K. McGhee, Swift River Energy Limited, balafalls@m-k-e.ca