

Ministry of
the Environment

Environmental Approvals
Branch

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Ministère de
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MAR 11 2013

Mr. Mitchell Shnier
Mitchell@Shnier.com

Dear Mr. Shnier:

Thank you for your February 12, 2013 correspondence to the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (Director) in which you raised concerns regarding the decision made by the Minister of the Environment (Minister) regarding the North Bala Small Hydro Project Addendum (Project). I am pleased to respond on behalf of the Director.

You contend that the Minister did not consider your correspondence which was submitted as part of your October 15, 2012 request to the Minister to review the Director's decision on elevation requests submitted for the Project. You asserted that your evidence of a historic portage route in the location where the Project is to be constructed was not considered or referenced in the January 23, 2013 Minister's decision.

Please be assured that the Minister's decision to confirm the Director's decision considered all issues raised, including yours, before determining that Swift River Energy Limited was not required to prepare an individual environmental assessment for the Project. The issue of portage was thoroughly reviewed using the Project documentation, the issues raised in your request, and the correspondence received by the Ministry of Natural Resources which you note in your letter.

Although you forwarded additional information that speaks to the existence of a possible historic portage route, the Ministry of Natural Resources confirmed to the Ministry of the Environment that its position provided in earlier correspondence remains valid. The Minister's decision that an individual environmental assessment is not required was based, in part, on the Ministry of the Natural Resources position that no historical portage route exists in the area. The Minister's decision is final.

Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns with this Project.

Yours sincerely,

Annamaria Cross
Manager, Environmental Assessment Services Section
Environmental Approvals Branch

c: Ms. Karen McGhee, Project Manager, Swift River Energy Limited