

SaveTheBalaFalls.com
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November 3, 2013

His Worship Mayor Rob Burton
Town Hall
1225 Trafalgar Road
Oakville, ON L6H 0H3

Telephone: 905 338-4173

E-mail: Mayor@Oakville.ca

Dear Mayor Burton:

Re: Due Diligence for the Proposed Generating Station at the Bala Falls

My name is Mitchell Shnier and for several years I have been involved with SaveTheBalaFalls.com, which is a conduit for the many concerns the Bala business, local, and seasonal communities have about Swift River Energy Limited's proposed project to develop an industrial hydro-electric generating station in the middle of the Bala Falls cultural heritage landscape.

As we understand that Oakville Hydro Energy Services Inc. is considering investing in this proposed project, we would like to present to you some of these concerns and potential liabilities.

While waterpower can be a very good source of electricity, the situation in Bala is problematic. For example, the treacherously turbulent water exiting the proposed generating station's tailrace would be just a few feet from where, for over 100 years, a continuous stream of families and other recreational tourism visitors have played in the water at the base of the Bala North Falls. This siting of the tailrace would be a major risk to public safety – and therefore a serious concern to owners, operators, investors, and insurance companies.

The Ministry of Natural Resources' and the proponent's response has been that people can swim elsewhere. Mayor Burton, if the province came to you and said "*the Oakville Ford plant has to shut down – but don't worry, you can still buy a General Motors car*", would that make any sense?. Similarly, the beautiful, publically-accessible Bala Falls cultural heritage landscape is central to the Bala area's economy. People won't come to see the dry rocks where the falls used to be. People won't come to stand on an artificially landscaped viewing stand on top of a noisy, vibrating, poured-concrete generating station.

While this proposed project has received some of the approvals needed, the MNR has stated it would be the proponent's responsibility to ensure public safety. This would appear to be an impossible task.

We have spent a great deal of time following and understanding this project and its complex history and we would appreciate the opportunity to contribute to your due diligence process.

Preferably before your next Council meeting, we would like to meet with you to explain some concerns and problems you may not have considered, and also to answer questions you may have. We would also be pleased to hear and discuss any thoughts you may have on this proposed project.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mitchell Shnier". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mitchell Shnier, P. Eng., on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com