

**Mitchell Shnier**

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**From:** Collins, Anne (MNR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2013 4:36 PM  
**To:** Mitchell@shnier.com  
**Cc:** Wynne\_Kathleen-MPP; Oraziotti\_David-MPP; AMurphy@muskokalakes.ca  
**Subject:** RE: Dangers of the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala Falls  
**Attachments:** Dangers of proposed Bala Falls generating station, 20130911.pdf

Mr. Mitchell Shnier  
SaveTheBalaFalls.com  
[Mitchell@shnier.com](mailto:Mitchell@shnier.com)

Dear Mr. Shnier:

Thank you for your September 11, 2013 email to Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding the proposed hydro-electric project in Bala. It was forwarded to me for a response and I am pleased to do so.

Swift River Energy Limited, the proponent of the waterpower project at Bala Falls, has successfully completed the Class Environmental Assessment for the project. The Minister of the Environment confirmed that an Individual Environmental Assessment is not warranted and the proponent can proceed with the waterpower project, subject to other permits and approvals required.

As one of a number of commenting government agencies throughout the Class Environmental Assessment process, MNR had no outstanding concerns with the proponent's Environmental Screening Report and subsequent Addendum which identifies the location of the waterpower facility on Crown land beside the MNR Bala North Dam. As such, the MNR issued *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* Location approval on June 24, 2013.

As the owner of a constructed waterpower facility with the responsibility for the operation of the facility and the two MNR Bala dams, it would be the responsibility of Swift River Energy Limited to ensure appropriate public safety measures are in place as they relate to the structures and resulting flows and levels. As the owner of the Bala dams, MNR will continue to ensure that the Bala dams are maintained and operated with associated safety measures in place to safeguard public safety.

It is commonly recognized that swimming, wading or other water-based activities below a water control structure such as the Bala North dam are not advisable recreational practices. I understand that a beach is located in the municipally maintained Jaspens Park which is available to the public for swimming and wading and is located a short distance from the Bala Falls and influence of flowing waters from Lake Muskoka.

If you have further questions or wish to discuss your concerns in more detail, please contact, Steve Taylor, Water Resources Coordinator in the Ministry's Parry Sound District at 705-646-5509 or [steve.taylor@ontario.ca](mailto:steve.taylor@ontario.ca).

Thank you for expressing your concerns and bringing them forward.

Sincerely,

Anne Collins

A/Bracebridge Area Supervisor  
Parry Sound District, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Bracebridge Office 705 646 5553  
Home Office 705 635 3235

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**From:** Mitchell Shnier [<mailto:Mitchell@shnier.com>]  
**Sent:** September 11, 2013 1:40 PM

**To:** Wynne\_Kathleen-MPP

**Cc:** Oraziotti\_David-MPP; Mayor Murphy

**Subject:** Dangers of the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala Falls

Hello Premier Wynne,

Since I met with you last year concerning the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala Falls, the proponent has presented a new proposal which would:

- Be outrageously dangerous to vacationing families
- Result in drownings, and therefore lawsuits and liability to the province

Further details are in the attached letter, please respond with what actions you will take.

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Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

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