

December 16, 2013

Mitchell Shnier
Save The Bala Falls
1038 Bala Falls Road
Bala ON
P0C 1A0

Dear Mr. Shnier,

Thank you for your December 9, 2013 letter to Premier Kathleen Wynne regarding the proposed hydro-electric project in Bala. It was forwarded to me for a response and I'm pleased to do so.

Anne Collins, a/Bracebridge Area supervisor has shared with me her October 22, 2013 e-mail in response to your September 11, 2013 e-mail to Premier Wynne.

As stated in Ms. Collins' response, it would be the direct responsibility of Swift River Energy Limited to ensure appropriate public safety measures are in place as they relate to flows above and below a waterpower facility and associated MNR Bala North Dam. As has been stated, any in-water activity such as wading within the cascade or discharge area immediately below the Bala North Dam is commonly recognized as an unsafe practice and is not advisable. Although such activities are not prohibited, people recreating in this area do so at their own risk.

Please note that the proponent's Class Environmental Assessment addressed many concerns including safety and scenic flow requirements. Should the waterpower facility be built and begin operation, a commitment was made to ensure scenic flows are provided for. The mode of operation for the proposed facility was also discussed in the Class Environmental Assessment and concerns associated with the proposed operation were mitigated to the satisfaction of MNR.

Feel free to contact me if you have further questions or wish to discuss your concerns in more detail.

Thank you again for expressing your concerns.



Sincerely,
Water Resources Coordinator
Parry Sound District, Ministry of Natural Resources
Bracebridge office
Phone: 705-646-5509