

Proposed Hydro-electric Generating Station at the Bala Falls

Site should be protected until all approvals have been issued

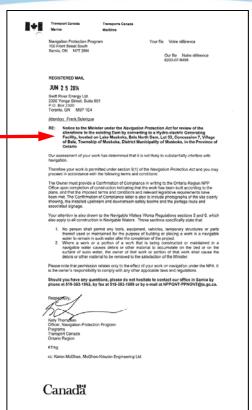
SaveTheBalaFalls.com 2015 02 13

Current Status

- Current status
 - Transport Canada
 - Ministry of the Environment
 - Ministry of Natural Resources
 - First Nations consultation
- Proposed Working Committee

Transport Canada

- Provided approval in 2014 under the Navigation Protection Act
- But this approval did not assess:
 - Flooding risk during proposed construction
 - Negative impacts to boating safety on Mill Stream and Moon River
 - Trespass and land ownership issues
 - ▶ Portage Street was never conveyed to the municipality – it is still owned by the Estate of Thomas Burgess
- Township has drafted a letter to Transport Canada
 - Hopefully Transport Canada will respond



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Ministry of the Environment

- Provided approval in 2013
 - But proponent's plans include work for which they do not have environmental approval
 - ▶ Blocking off all of Bala north channel
 - ► Starting work six weeks early
- We continue to wait for a response from the Ministry of the Environment on this

Ministry of the Environment
Office of the Minister

Ministère de l'Environnemen

Bureau du ministre

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JAN 2 3 2018

ENV1283MC-2012-3243

Vs. Karen McGhee Projec; Wanager P. Eng. Swift River Energy Limited kmoghee@m-k-e.ca

Dear Ms. McGhee:

I am in receipt of 69 requests, asking that the Minister of the Environment review the decision of the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (Director) that an individual environmental assessment is not warranted for the North Bala Small Hydro Project addendum (Project), in the Township of Muskoka Lakes,

I am taking this opporturity to inform you that I have decided to confirm the Director's decision. This decision was made after giving careful consideration to the issues raised in the requests, Project documentation, the provisions of the Environmental Screening Process, and other relevant matters required to be considered under subsect or 15(4) of the Environmental Assessment. Act. A more comprehensive discussion of the evaluation of the requests may be found in the attached letters to the requesters. My decision is final.

Please note that any contravention of the Act, including failure to comply with the Environmental Screening Process and the commitments made in the Environmental Screening Report, may result in prosecution under Section 38 of the Act. This decision is made with the understanding that Swift River Energy Limited recognizes the importance and value of the Act are that these commitments will be fulfilled.

Yours sincerely

J. 3-14

Attachment c: requeste

Ministry of Natural Resources

- Initially expected to provide approval in 60 days
 - Has been ten months, still no approval
 - ► Clearly there are issues
- Proponent has not kept commitments they made in their original proposal
 - For example, said powerhouse would be below road level, but recent drawing shows would be 28' above Muskoka Road 169
- Many other issues
 - Need to make structural changes to the Bala north dam
 - Cofferdam would create high risk of flooding Lake Muskoka
- We continue to wait for responses from the MNR

First Nations Consultation

- Proposed project would permanently block the Bala Portage
 - Proponent's consultation was only for their now-abandoned previous proposals which would not have blocked the Bala Portage
 - ▶ Wahta Mohawks continue to wait for a response from the Crown
 - MNR's own actions of selecting this site for release also required
 First Nations consultation
 - ▶ We continue to wait for a response from the MNR

Our Request

- As the proposed project may never receive all approvals
 - The MNR should be requested to not allow any trees to be damaged or removed while the proponent does not have all required approvals
 - ▶ It would be a shame and a waste to cut down the trees if the project as proposed never proceeds to construction

Our request #1

That the Township of Muskoka Lakes send a letter to the Minister of Natural Resources asking that they not permit the proponent to damage or remove any trees from the proposed construction site before the proponent has all required approvals for construction, including the Work Permit and the Lease to Construct

Proposed Working Committee

- There are years of convoluted history to the commitments made by the proponent
- Some aspects of this proposed project are very technical

Our request #2

A representative of SaveTheBalaFalls.com should be a member of the committee

Also, the public must be allowed to attend meetings (this is a project on public land using a public resource)