

**From:** MIN Feedback (MNRF)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2015 11:29 AM  
**To:** Mitchell@shnier.com  
**Subject:** Message from The Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

July 8, 2015

[Mitchell@shnier.com](mailto:Mitchell@shnier.com)

Thank you for your correspondence about the Bala North dam small hydro proposal. I am responding with information about the latest project developments and the actions that my ministry and the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) have taken.

Our government is committed to expanding clean, renewable sources of energy, such as waterpower. It is critical that Ontarians have a reliable and sustainable supply of electricity in the future.

The proponent, Swift River Energy Limited (SREL), completed the Environmental Screening Process as required under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, Ontario Regulation 116/01 administered by the MOECC. As part of that process, SREL prepared the Environmental Screening Report and Addendum, which

- identified the potential environmental effects of their project;
- documented consultation with agencies, members of the public and Aboriginal communities; and
- outlined relevant potential measures to mitigate or manage environmental effects.

With the completion of the Class Environmental Assessment for the North Bala Small Hydro Project, the MOECC, as per the *Environmental Assessment Act*, provided SREL with the authority to proceed with the project subject to receiving required approvals and permits.

My ministry has finalized and issued documents (including occupational authority and work permits) that allow SREL to now begin Phase 1 construction on the associated Crown lands. This work includes installation of the upstream and downstream coffer dams and the construction of intake and water channel structures of the facility, as well as any fencing or tree removal required to facilitate construction.

Please visit [www.balafalls.ca](http://www.balafalls.ca) if you would like more information about the project and its environmental assessment. If you have questions about the environmental assessment requirements for the project, please contact MOECC. For questions regarding the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) authorizations, please contact Sandra Ausma at the MNRF Parry Sound office, 7 Bay Street, Parry Sound ON P2A 1S4 or [sandra.ausma@ontario.ca](mailto:sandra.ausma@ontario.ca).

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED BY BILL MAURO**

Bill Mauro  
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

c: Premier Kathleen Wynne  
The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change  
Sandra Ausma