

September 18, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne  
Premier of Ontario and MPP, Don Valley West  
795 Eglinton Avenue East, suite 101  
Toronto, ON M4G 4E4  
Phone: 416 425-6777  
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Dear Premier Wynne:

**Re: Proposed Hydro-electric Generating Station at the Bala Falls**

I am a constituent of yours and have both met with you and written previously about the unaddressed public safety issues for the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls.

I have seen the form letter your staff is currently sending out on your behalf and they seem to be treating this as a political statement which can be dismissed with vague and unsubstantiated statements rather than with facts as required for this life-and-death issue.

- 1) The form letter states that: *“to make sure projects are developed safely and in a way that protects the environment and community health”*, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change’s *“process requires companies to assess any environmental impacts, describe mitigation measures and consult with members of the community”*. Your letter is spreading fake news:
  - a) This has not happened. In fact, both the proponent and MNR refuse to even disclose the draft Public Safety plan.
  - b) Therefore, the proponent has not described mitigation measures, and they did not consult members of the community.
- 2) That the: *“MOECC worked closely with numerous agencies including ...”* and: *“concluded that the Bala Falls project could operate safely and meet the provincial standards that are in place to protect health and the environment”*. This makes no sense:
  - a) None of the listed agencies have experience with public safety for in-water recreation, so whatever they did was inadequate. This has already been proven as the proponent has:
    - Stated they would not warn before increasing flow to the Moon River. This would be dangerous and would not comply with the MNR’s public safety guidelines.
    - Shown their proposed downstream safety boom would not encompass the water they would make dangerous, so would not comply with the Canadian Dam Association’s public safety guidelines.
  - b) There are no “provincial standards” for in-water recreational safety, just as there are no standards for how close wind turbines can be to an airport. Properly addressing the danger they would create requires expertise and examining the particular situation.
    - This is confirmed by the recent decision by the Environmental Review Tribunal which reversed the MOECC’s approval that had permitted eight 45-storey-tall wind turbines on the flight path for two airports near Collingwood, Ontario (it required six

teams of lawyers and many experts to prove what everyone but the MOECC would say is just common sense).

- c) The MOECC has not even seen the draft Safety Plan, so whatever the MOECC concluded was premature.

Premier (and ghost-writer), the proponent and MNRF have never built or operated a hydro-electric generating station in the middle of a popular in-water recreational area, this would be unprecedented. Developing a Safety Plan for this requires in-water recreational safety expertise – which the MNRF and proponent do not have.

It is unacceptable that both the MNRF and proponent refuse to release the Safety Plan – what are they hiding. Think about it, a public safety plan that isn't being disclosed to the public, there is something wrong here.

I request that before any further approvals are issued to the proponent, that a Safety Plan be properly developed by those with such expertise, and presented to the public as part of an Addendum as is required by the environmental assessment process.

I also request a response to this letter which addresses the false and unsubstantiated statements above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitchell Shnier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mitchell Shnier