

Mitchell Shnier

From: Mitchell Shnier
Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2017 11:34 AM
To: 'Teske, Tom (MOECC)'
Cc: 'Allen, Brad (MOECC)'
Subject: RE: Water treatment system in Bala

Hello Tom,

I really appreciate your getting back to me and including a photograph.

But this does not address the concerns, for example:

- 1) That inspection hatch at the top would not provide access to the water that's actually being discharged into the river, so there's no assurance that the test results are meaningful. The only meaningful place to draw water samples is of the water in the discharge pipe to the Moon River, so it is known to be the actual discharge water.
- 2) Concerning the "back pressure", if this was a one-time reversal of flow due to back-pressure, I agree, it could be treated water that was backing-up through the system and overflowing. But this overflow went on for days, so the incoming water was simply flowing in faster than it was being accepted by the downstream treatment. There would be no treated water flowing backwards through the system.

So the incoming untreated water would simply have not passed through the plates and would overflow out of the tanks. Their explanation to you just doesn't seem plausible. I'd be happy to meet with them on-site if they'd like to explain how treated water could back up through the system while there is still incoming untreated water flowing in. Furthermore, if there really was treated water flowing backwards through the system, it could pick-up any sediment that had settled and overflow this, recreated untreated water, out of the tanks.

Mitchell Shnier

-----Original Message-----

From: Teske, Tom (MOECC) [<mailto:Tom.Teske@ontario.ca>]
Sent: Saturday, December 23, 2017 9:54 AM
To: Mitchell Shnier
Cc: Allen, Brad (MOECC)
Subject: RE: Water treatment system in Bala

Hello Mitchell

Please see attached a picture of the vacuum tank that contains the bag filtration system. The treated water passes through the bag and occupies the space around the bag prior to discharging through the outlet pipe. The picture shows the access hatch that is opened to obtain a sample of the treated water.

Based on your previous correspondence (that included pictures of the silt clean tanks) to staff of the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change it appears that you are familiar with the design of the Hoelscher dewatering system. As indicated in the diagram of the Hoelscher silt clean tank that you provided to the ministry the unit has an inlet, launders (filters), and an outlet. It was explained to me that the overflow of the dewatering system was caused by a back pressure that was created after the silt clean units. The back pressure caused the treated water to back up through the outlet discharge of the silt clean units that caused the treated effluent to flow back into the launders and over the top of the silt clean units. Once the overflow occurred the inlet water passing through the launders did not discharge via the outlet but instead overflowed from the tanks.

Tom Teske | Senior Environmental Officer | Barrie District Office | Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
54 Cedar Pointe Drive, Unit 1201 | Barrie ON, L4N 5R7 | T: 705-739-6419 |

-----Original Message-----

From: Mitchell Shnier [<mailto:Mitchell@shnier.com>]
Sent: December 5, 2017 10:08 AM
To: Teske, Tom (MOECC)
Subject: Water treatment system in Bala

Hello Tom,

As in my voice-mail to you:

- Can you tell me where the water test access is, as I have looked at the discharge pipe to the Bala south channel and did not see anywhere a water sample could be taken.
- How can the system be said to have adequate capacity, when it overflowed, and this overflow from the lamella tanks would have been before the water passed through the plates, so would have been untreated.

Thanks.

Mitchell Shnier
25 Lower Links Road
Toronto, ON M2P 1H5

Telephone: 416 222-1430
E-mail: Mitchell@Shnier.com