

Mitchell Shnier

From: Minister, MOECC (MOECC)
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Mitchell@Shnier.com
Subject: Bala Falls

ENV1283MC-2017-3359

Dear Mr. Shnier:

Thank you for your emailed letter of December 6, 2017 regarding your concerns about the dewatering system at the Bala Falls. I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) is committed to ensuring that the development of the proposed hydro-electric generating station at Bala Falls is done in a manner that is protective of human health and the environment.

In your letter, you indicate a number of concerns regarding the development of the proposed hydro-electric generating station at Bala Falls, specifically as it relates to the industrial sewage works Environmental Compliance Approval for treatment of water associated with the cofferdam installation. Ministry staff have been on site routinely and have reviewed both the Environmental Compliance application and Approval. Ministry staff have confirmed that the water treatment system, as installed, is acceptable to the MOECC. The equipment being used on site is considered an "approved equivalent" and is permissible under Environmental Compliance Approval Number 0521-9XKKZ3.

As you indicate, there was an overflow of water that is being pumped from the Moon River to dewater the area behind the cofferdam. Based on the ministry's assessment, the water from the tanks did not contain a contaminant that would cause an adverse effect. Ministry staff inspected the dewatering system and confirmed that the issue that caused the overflow has been resolved. In addition, ministry staff have confirmed that the construction dewatering system is being sampled and tested daily.

You raise a concern that the use of a chemical to treat the wooden floor of the shipping containers will contaminate any water coming into contact with the wood. In order to address your concern, ministry staff from the Barrie District Office collected a sample of the contact water and the analysis has confirmed that the contact water is not toxic.

You also indicate a concern regarding construction on a brownfield site. Under Brownfield Regulations, as part of the *Environmental Protection Act*, a Record of Site Condition is only required if the intended use is more sensitive than the previous use. As the use is not changing, a Record of Site Condition is not required. With regard to contaminants on site, if you have any information or evidence of polychlorinated biphenyls or other contaminants that have been buried at the site, please provide the information to the ministry's Barrie District office. If any contaminant is found on site that may represent a risk to the environment, ministry staff will ensure the proponent takes the appropriate measures to remove and/or mitigate this risk.

Ministry staff continue to routinely inspect the site. I have requested that the inspector from the local ministry office, Mr. Tom Teske, Senior Environmental Officer, contact you to update you on the MOECC's actions to ensure that the site complies with ministry legislation. Should you wish to contact Mr. Teske directly, he can be reached at 705-739-6419 or at Tom.Teske@ontario.ca.

Thank you, again, for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Chris Ballard
Minister