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**Ministère
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March 21, 2018

Mitchell Shnier
25 Lower Links Road
Toronto, ON
M2P 1H5
Email: Mitchell@Shnier.com

RE: Proposed Hydro-Electric Generating Station at Bala Falls

Dear Mr. Shnier;

Thank you for your letter of March 6, 2018, in which you shared your concerns regarding proposed road closures and the notice of blasting activities related to the construction of the hydro-electric generating station at Bala Falls.

Swift River Energy Limited (SREL) has fulfilled the Environmental Assessment (EA) requirements for the North Bala Small Hydro Project (the Project) through the Environmental Screening / Review Process set out in O.Reg.116/01 under the EA Act. The Project is now in the implementation phase.

In your letter, you discussed traffic-related changes from the 2009 "Alternative 2D" to that of the 2012 "Alternative 1A" identified in the Addendum Report. The result of these changes, as stated in the Addendum Report, make reference to only the construction and subsequent removal of a temporary bridge, which is no longer required, and the elimination of the need for work under the Highway 169 Bridge. The Environmental Screening / Review Report and Addendum recognized that periodic traffic disruption on MR-169 will still be required at various points throughout the construction period.

In order to ensure public safety during construction, the following mitigation measure – adherence by workers to prescribed procedures such as cleared radius during blasting is required. This mitigation measure along with the proposed blasting schedule may result in temporary traffic delays, which is consistent with the Environmental Screening / Review Report and Addendum for the Project. Provided that the proponent continues to proceed with the project in accordance with the conditions of their EA approval, the ministry does not further regulate road closures and traffic management.

Your letter also indicates concerns related to emergency services response being potentially compromised during road closures. In the event that an emergency vehicle (e.g. fire truck, ambulance or police) shows up during the blasting procedure, the Blaster in charge will be contacted on the radio and the blast will be aborted in order to let the emergency vehicle(s) through the zone. Blast operations will resume once the emergency vehicle has driven through the zone and the flagman has confirmed that the vehicle is out of the zone. The ministry is

satisfied that the protocols put in place will avoid any potential impacts to emergency response services.

Thank you for writing and sharing your concerns with me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Parent', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Marcel Parent
Assistant Director, Central Region

For

Lisa Trevisan
Director, Central Region