

January 23, 2018

Kathleen O'Neill
Director, Environmental Assessment and Permissions Branch
Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
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Hello Ms. O'Neill:

Re: Proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls

It seems that your Ministry is so caught up in finding technicalities to deflect our concerns that the main problem is being ignored: **the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls would be so dangerous that people would be drowned.**

For more than 100 years, the only boat rental in the area has been, and continues to be, just upstream of the Bala north dam. And their canoe rental docks would be **just 55 m** upstream from the proposed station's deadly intake.

It is common for people to fall out of a canoe, especially when getting in to or out of it. Normally, this is a laughing matter. But if the proposed station was built, it would be **just 45 seconds** until people falling out of a canoe would be; swept to the proposed station's deadly intake, pulled underwater by the flow – whether they're wearing a life jacket or not – and held underwater until they drowned.

Just 45 seconds.

I have attached a graphic to this letter to illustrate the situation. We realize the title may appear exaggerated, **but what else can you call it when someone falling out a rental canoe would be drowned 45 seconds later.**

We have more detail posted at <http://savethebalafalls.com/?p=8590>

The recent decision by the Environmental Review Tribunal to cancel the proposed Fairview wind turbine project – which had been approved by your Ministry – as it would endanger those using the two nearby Collingwood airports shows that your Ministry **does** have responsibility for human life, as is confirmed by the definitions of *environment* in Section 1(1) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, and by the definition of *adverse effect* in Section 1(1) of the *Environmental Protection Act*.

The fact that there was no government response to the more than 300 individually-written letters from the public raising this concern sent to the Premier in January 2017 shows the provincial government has no acceptable response to this major unaddressed issue.

All we know now is the proponent **could not adequately warn** the public using; signage (due to property ownership restrictions), safety booms (as there is no permission from Transport Canada as these are navigable waterways), or sirens (due to the passing trains).

Please respond, why won't your Ministry fulfil its responsibility for human life by requiring the proponent to show how, or even if, they could operate their proposed project safely.

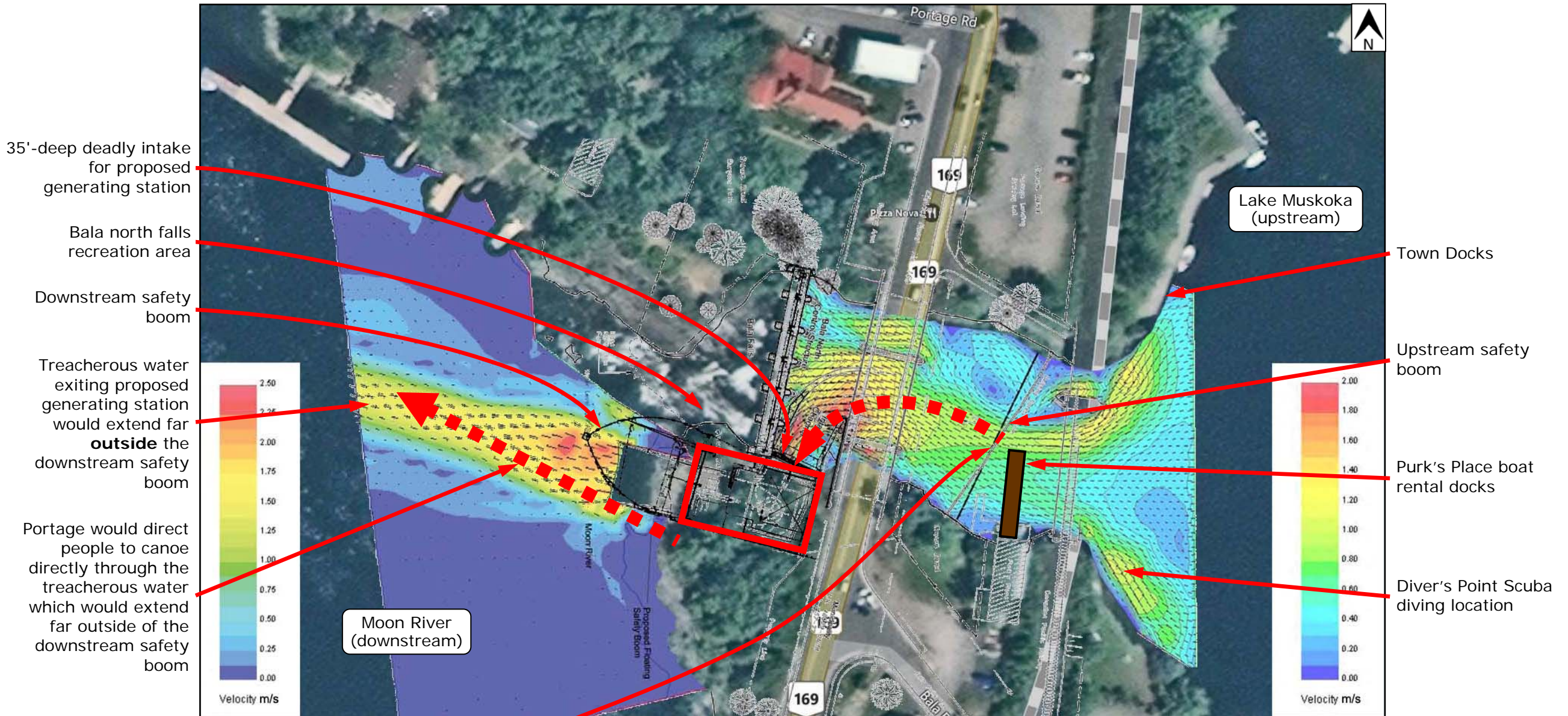
Sincerely,

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

Mitchell Shnier, on behalf of SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Cc: The Honourable Chris Ballard, Minister, MOECC, CBallard.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
The Honourable Nathalie Des Rosiers, Minister, MNR, NDesRosiers.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Norm Miller, MPP, Parry Sound – Muskoka, Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org
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Murdered in 45 seconds



Getting into or out of a canoe is probably the most common place to fall or tip out of it:

- The boat rental docks are only 55 m upstream of the 35'-deep deadly intake to the proposed hydro-electric generating station at the Bala falls.
- The water would flow at 1.2 m/s past the docks, to the proposed station's deadly intake.
- So in only 45 seconds, anyone falling in the water – wearing a life jacket or not – would be carried to the deadly intake, pulled under water, and held there by the tons of water per second flowing down and into the deadly intake. **Just 45 seconds from falling in the water to being drowned.**