

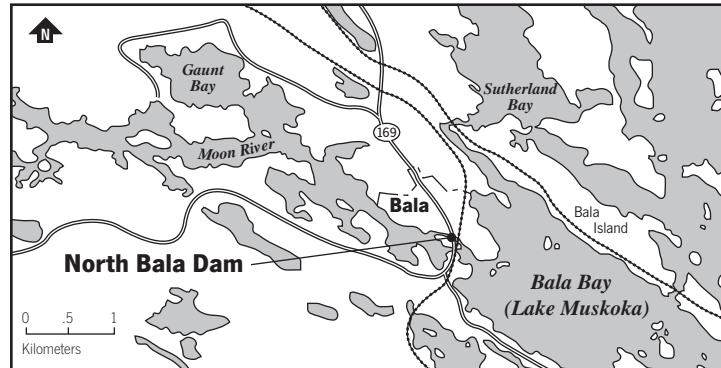
**Appendix D**  
**Consultation**

**D1 Notice of Commencement 2006**

# Notice of Commencement Environmental Screening North Bala Dam Hydroelectric Project

Swift River Energy Limited (Swift River) is proposing the construction of a 3 to 4MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility at the North Bala Dam. The proposed project will be governed by the existing water level rule curves for Lake Muskoka as outlined in the draft Water Management Plan for the Muskoka River System.

The map below indicates the location of the proposed development.



The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has selected Swift River as the Applicant of Record through competitive site release under the Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy. The project is subject to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Environmental Screening Process for Electricity Projects required under Regulation 116/01 of the Environmental Assessment Act as well as assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). The screening process will be conducted so as to meet the substantive information and consultation requirements of the MNR's Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower.

Hatch Acres has been retained by Swift River to undertake the environmental screening process for the project. Comments and/or questions concerning any aspect of the proposed project are welcomed and should be directed to:

Murray McFarlane  
Hatch Acres  
4342 Queen Street  
P.O. Box 1001, Niagara Falls, ON  
L2E 6W1  
Phone: 905 374 5200 ext 5472; Fax: 905 374 1157  
Email: MMcFarlane@hatchacres.com

Public Information Centres will be scheduled to be held in Bala and Toronto during the summer of 2006. The dates and venues will be published in local newspapers once the details are finalized.

Information will be collected and used in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This material will be maintained on file for use during the study and may be included in project documentation. With the exception of personal information all comments will become part of the public record.



Hatch Acres Incorporated  
4342 Queen Street, P. O. Box 1001, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada L2E 6W1  
Tel: 905-374-5200 • Fax: 905-374-1157 • www.hatchacres.com

March 8, 2006  
File No.

Address

Salutation:

**Subject: North Bala Dam Hydroelectric Project**

Swift River Energy Limited (Swift River) is proposing the construction of a 3 - 4MW run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility at the North Bala Dam. The proposed project will be governed by the water level rule curves for Lake Muskoka as outlined in the draft Water Management Plan for the Muskoka River System.

Swift River was selected as the Applicant of Record through competitive site release under the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Waterpower Site Release and Development Review Policy. The project is subject to the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE) Environmental Screening Process for Electricity Projects required under Regulation 116/01 of the Environmental Assessment Act, as well as assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA). The screening process will also be conducted so as to meet the substantive information and consultation requirements of the MNR's Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower. The latter is a new requirement of MNR's planning policies and procedures for waterpower. Other permits and approvals will be required from various municipal, provincial and federal authorities.

Hatch Acres has been retained by Swift River to undertake the environmental screening process for the project. To assist our study, we ask that you provide us with any comments, concerns or background information relevant to this undertaking. For our records, we require a written response from your agency/organization. For your information, we have attached a copy of the 'Notice of Commencement' scheduled for publication in *Muskoka Today*, the *Bracebridge Examiner* and the *Gravenhurst Banner*.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (905) 374-0701 ext. 5472 or by email at [MMcFarlane@Hatchacres.com](mailto:MMcFarlane@Hatchacres.com).

Sincerely,

Murray McFarlane  
Manager, Small Hydro  
Hatch Acres

Initials  
cc Copies to

Encl/Attach