

D23 First Nation Consultation

DATE: October 15, 2008 TIME: 12:00pm PROJECT NO.: 327078
BETWEEN: Blaine Commandant AND: Kathleen Vukovics
Wahta Mohawk First Nation
(705) 762-2354
SUBJECT: Bala Falls Small Hydro Project

KEYWORD(S): Wahta Mohawk REF FILE:
COPIES TO:

I spoke with Chief Blaine Commandant of the Wahta Mohawk First Nation. I asked if he had received our letter regarding the Bala Falls Small Hydro Project. He stated that he did and that he has been keeping abreast of the material available from Swift River Energy Limited. I asked if he had any questions or comments regarding the project that I could either answer for him or pass along to our Environmental Assessment Coordinator, who would then send him a response. He said he had some concerns. These are as follows:

- Turbidity and water quality changes
- Water level changes and management within the Water Management Plan
- Fish habitat

He also stated he was concerned about assurances that Swift River could not start the construction of the project and abandon it prior to its completion.

The Chief also suggested that Swift River utilize the tailrace area to develop spawning habitat, especially for pickerel.

I told the Chief that our Environmental Assessment Coordinator would send a letter to respond to his concerns.

KMV:KMV
Attachment(s)/Enclosure

Telephone Conversation

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DATE: October 15, 2008 TIME: 11:50 am PROJECT NO.: 327078
BETWEEN: Rhonda Williams AND: Kathleen Vukovics
Moose Deer Point First Nation
(705) 375 - 5209
SUBJECT: Bala Falls Small Hydro Project

KEYWORD(S): Moose Deer REF FILE:
COPIES TO:

I spoke with Rhonda Williams of the Moose Deer Point First Nation Band Office who confirmed that Chief Barron King had received our letter of August 7, 2008 and stated that Moose Deer Point "had no issues regarding the project".

KMV:KMV
Attachment(s)/Enclosure

October 16, 2008

Chief Blaine Commandant
Wahta Mohawk First Nation
PO Box 260
Bala, ON P0C 1A0

Dear Chief Commandant:

Subject: North Bala Hydroelectric Project

Thank you very much for your call yesterday to Kathleen Vukovics of our office. It was noted that during that call you expressed the following concerns in relation to the proposed hydroelectric project in Bala:

- Possible project impacts on water quality including turbidity
- Water level changes and assurance that water management would be within the existing Muskoka River Water Management Plan
- Possible project impact on fish habitat
- Assurance that Swift River Energy Limited would be able to complete the project and not abandon an unfinished plant.

It was also noted that you suggested that the tailrace area be utilized to develop spawning habitat, particularly for pickerel.

During construction, a cofferdam will be erected in the tailrace area. This will allow work to be completed under dry conditions, reducing any effect on turbidity that may occur. During the construction period, the flows along the river will not be changed. No impact on flows or water levels will occur during the construction period.

The proposed project must operate within the rules of the existing Muskoka River Water Management Plan. During operation, fluctuations in Lake Muskoka levels and Bala Reach levels will be within the Normal Operating Zones which presently exist in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.

Studies have been undertaken to assist in evaluating potential impact of the project on fish habitat. Where impacts are identified, methods of mitigation have to be proposed, before any approvals are obtained. The details of the potential impacts and the mitigation measures proposed will be detailed in the environmental screening report which is currently being prepared. Mitigation measures may include the development of spawning areas in the tailrace or other suitable areas as you suggested. I will ensure that a copy of the screening report is made available to you.

Please rest assured that Swift River Energy has the resources to undertake and complete the proposed project. As part of the competitive bidding process to the MNR, the owners of Swift River Energy had to provide firm evidence of their ability to finance the proposed development. The project will not be abandoned in a partially constructed state.

I trust that I have responded to your concerns adequately. I look forward to receiving comments on the screening report after its distribution or at any time that you wish to contact me. I may be contacted by phone or fax at the numbers listed on the top of the page or by email at tclarke@hatchenergy.com.

Thank you again for your comments and interest in the project. They are greatly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

Trion Clarke

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Ref.: Document2
Attachment(s)/Enclosure

cc: Steve Taylor, MNR
Ian Baines, Swift River Energy
Bruce MacTavish, Hatch Energy

Table D13 Phase Two Consultations with Wahta Mohawk and Moose Deer Point First Nations			
First Nation	Date	Type	Summary of Communication
Moose Deer Point First Nation	October 15, 2008	Telephone Conversation	A representative of the Moose Deer Point First Nation Band Office confirmed that Chief Barron King had received our letter of August 7, 2008 and stated that Moose Deer Point "had no issues regarding the project".
Wahta Mohawk First Nation	October 15, 2008	Telephone Conversation	Chief Blaine Commandant of the Wahta Mohawk First Nation confirmed that he had received our letter regarding the Bala Falls Small Hydro Project. He submitted the following comments regarding the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbidity and water quality changes • Water level changes and management within the WMP • Fish habitat. He stated he was concerned about assurances that Swift River could not start the construction of the project and abandon it prior to its completion. The Chief also suggested that Swift River utilize the tailrace area to develop spawning habitat, especially for pickerel.
Wahta Mohawk First Nation	October 16, 2008	Written Correspondence	HE submitted a response to the Chief and First Nation addressing the concerns that were raised during the telephone conversation of October 15, 2008.
Wahta Mohawk First Nation	December 2, 2008	Telephone Conversation	SREL contacted Chief Commandant to inquire regarding any outstanding issues and to offer a meeting with the First Nation, SREL and MNR. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place in early 2009.
Wahta Mohawk First Nation	December 3, 2008	Email	SREL informed Chief Commandant regarding the release of the Screening Report in early 2009.