



July 10, 2018

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON
M7A 1A1

Dear Premier Ford,

Re: Bala Falls Hydro Plant

I am writing on behalf of the members of the Moon River Property Owners' Association. Our membership is made up of a mix of permanent and seasonal residents of the Bala reach portion of the Moon River.

The purpose of my letter is to inform you of our concerns regarding the contamination of the water in the Moon River and the risk to the environment due to the construction of the Bala Falls hydro plant.

The construction site of the Bala Falls hydro plant is actually in the Moon River, not beside it. All of the residents of the Moon River live downstream of this construction site and are therefore subject to potential contamination. There are hundreds families living on the Moon River, most of whom do not have access to municipal water and therefore draw their water for all purposes (including for drinking) from the Moon River. We would like to know what monitoring is being done to ensure the safety of the water?

Case in point: One of proponent's three 'bore hole' drilling site tests did find contamination. This contamination was found in the 'bore hole' located closest to the site of the old power plant known as Bala #2 generating station. We understand that no further testing was done specifically where the old Bala #2 generating station stood (the likely location of contamination). In light of the finding of contamination, why did the previous Liberal government accept a deficient Environmental Site Assessment that did not investigate whether the PCBs expected to be found at the abandoned Bala #2 generating station had been removed?

Why did the Ministry of the Environment permit the proponent to put three huge overseas shipping containers directly into the Moon River without first testing the concentration of the manufacturer-applied insecticide, which is known to be harmful to fish?

Why has the Ministry of the Environment allowed the proponent to dump blasted rock directly into the Moon River, even though the proponent's environmental approval does not allow this?

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Why did the Ministry of the Environment allow the proponent to continue working even though their water treatment system did not have the components or the capacity required by their Environmental Compliance Approval?

Why did the Ministry of the Environment ignore the unauthorized spill of untreated water from the Proponent's deficient water treatment system?

How is it possible for the proponent to obtain approvals for the construction and operation of a hydro plant that deviates so drastically from the approved Environmental Assessment?

Your government is now in a position to take action on the previous government's unacceptable negligence. Premier Ford, we have confidence that you and the Ontario PC government will 'clean up the mess' in Bala and 'restore respect for taxpayers'.

Stopping the hydro plant at the Bala Falls would be a win – win, as it will save:

- The Environment. The damage to the water and the environment far outweighs any non-existent benefits.
- 100 million dollars of taxpayers' money, which is the subsidy that Ontario would be committed to pay this private developer for power that isn't needed.
- Lives. The proponent refuses to show how, or if, they could safely operate this dangerous industrial facility in the middle of one of the most popular natural in-water recreational areas in Ontario.

There is plenty of evidence to cancel this project without cost to the taxpayers, at the website: www.SaveTheBalaFalls.com.

Therefore, on behalf of the Moon River Property Owners' Association and the citizens of Ontario, I am asking you to cancel this project, as soon as possible, before further damage to the environment and contamination of our water occurs.

A more appropriate use of the power plant site would be a scenic park, which would be more in keeping with its picturesque Muskoka surroundings. National Geographic has named Muskoka one of the world's top ten best tourist destinations. The current construction site can easily be backed filled and a beautiful park could be created in its place, which would attract tourists and bring back the much-needed life to Bala and its economy.

Regards,

Drew Cowern
President
Moon River Property Owners' Association

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