

15 October 2014

Mr. Dan Duggan
District Manager - Parry Sound District
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
7 Bay Street
Parry Sound, ON P2A1S4
Email: dan.duggan@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Duggan,

Re: Lease of Crown Land in Bala Ontario to Swift River Energy Limited

Over the past few weeks I have sent two e-mails to you asking for confirmation whether or not the proponent for the proposed Bala Falls hydro project has a signed land lease for the Crown lands at the Bala north falls, which is where they propose constructing a generating station.

You will recall that when you were in Bala on the 23rd of September, 2014 you told Ms. Peggy Peterson at the site that at that time the proponent did not yet have such a signed land lease.

I was present for that conversation, as was Mr. Ian Smith, owner of Beatty and Belle Islands in Bala Bay.

I telephoned your office this morning to determine whether you received my two previous e-mails on this subject as I have not received any response to these from you. As you did not answer your telephone, I left a voicemail with my telephone number.

After I left this voicemail, you telephoned me and we spoke at approximately 11:40 am this morning.

In this telephone conversation, you refused to deny that you had stated that the proponent has no signed land lease. Further; you stated that you wished not to be quoted on this matter, you refused to put your comments in writing, and you requested these communications not be discussed more broadly or be shared via social media.

Unfortunately, I do not believe this is appropriate as we understand that the proponent intends to begin construction as early as this Monday, by first cutting down all the trees on the site. However, I understand the proponent requires a signed land lease to be authorized to proceed with such work.

In the absence of anything in writing from you to deny your original and witnessed statement, I must conclude that your remarks were and remain correct; that Swift River Energy Limited does not have a signed land lease for the Crown lands at the Bala north falls. They and their agents and contractors are therefore not authorized to cut down or otherwise harm any trees on the site or to do any other work on the site.

From your attempts to keep us from learning the current status of the lease for this Crown land, and from the proponent's statements that they intend to cut down all the trees on the site as early as this Monday October 20, 2014, I find it reprehensible that the Government of Ontario would knowingly permit such unauthorized destruction.

Given the widespread concern for this site and that proper procedures be followed, as noted below, we have copied this letter to relevant politicians and media so they are informed of the current situation.

I look forward to your written response explaining the current status of the lease for the Crown lands at the Bala north falls. Please send this to both PurksPlace@bellnet.ca and info@SaveTheBalaFalls.com

Sincerely,



Bill Purkis
Bala, Ontario
705 762-3103

Cc: Honourable Kathleen O. Wynne, MPP, kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, MP, PC, stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, Bernard.Valcourt@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Lisa Raitt, Minister of Transport, Lisa.Raitt@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable Tony Clement, MP for Parry Sound – Muskoka, Tony.Clement@parl.gc.ca
The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, DZimmer.mpp@liberal.ola.org
The Honourable Bill Mauro, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, BMauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, GMurray.mpp@liberal.ola.org
John Klinck, District Chair, District Municipality of Muskoka, JKlinck@muskoka.on.ca
Her Worship Alice Murphy, Mayor, Township of Muskoka Lakes, AMurphy@muskokalakes.ca
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