

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Office of the Minister

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**Ministère de
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MAY 24 2012

ENV1283MC-2011-1471

Ms. Karen McGhee
Project Manager, P. Eng.
Swift River Energy Limited
kmcghee@m-k-e.ca

Dear Ms. McGhee:

I am in receipt of 75 requests, asking that the Minister of the Environment review the decision of the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch (Director) that an individual environmental assessment is not warranted for the North Bala Small Hydro Project (Project), in the Township of Muskoka Lakes.

I am taking this opportunity to inform you that I have decided to confirm the Director's decision. This decision was made after giving careful consideration to the issues raised in the requests, Project documentation, the provisions of the Environmental Screening Process, and other relevant matters required to be considered under subsection 16(4) of the Environmental Assessment Act. A more comprehensive discussion of the evaluation of the requests may be found in the attached letters to the requesters. My decision is final.

Please note that any contravention of the Act, including failure to comply with the Environmental Screening Process and the commitments made in the Environmental Screening Report, may result in prosecution under Section 38 of the Act. This decision is made with the understanding that Swift River Energy Limited recognizes the importance and value of the Act and that these commitments will be fulfilled.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Bradley".

Jim Bradley
Minister

Attachment

c: requesters
Mr. Larry King, Consultant Project Manager, Hatch Energy