



**ONTARIO
RIVERS
ALLIANCE**

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1 February 2019

Daniel Raisman
Permit to Take Water Evaluator
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
5775 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E5
Via Email: Michael.Friesen@ontario.ca

Dear Mr. Raisman:

Re: Swift River Energy Limited's Application – Permit to Take Water
North Bala Small Hydro Project, Ref: 8784-B6YRB2

The Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) is a Not-for-Profit grassroots organization acting as a voice for several stewardships, organizations, individual and Indigenous members who have come together to protect, conserve and restore healthy river ecosystems.

ORA submitted a Part II Order request in October of 2012 and has corresponded with the Ministry on multiple occasions regarding the Environmental Report for the North Bala Small Hydro Project, so we are very familiar with its issues and deficiencies.

ORA wishes to express our support for the submission made by Mitchell Shnier of Save The Bala Falls with respect to the Permit to Take Water (PTTW) for the North Bala Small Hydro Project. Since this project was first proposed, a large percentage of the community of Bala Falls have been opposed to it. Citizens have lobbied, marched, picketed, petitioned and railed against this abomination being built in the heart of their town. Immediately downstream of the dam is a favourite public swimming and picnic area that draws local residents and tourists from far and wide. This project will pose a public safety risk; however, there is no Public Safety Plan – it wasn't included in the initial Environmental Report, nor was it adequately addressed. It was unacceptable in 2012, and it's still unacceptable - it should never have been approved in the first place.

ORA respectfully requests that the PTTW not be issued until an authorized Public Safety Plan has been provided to the local citizens. Failing that we request that the Application for a Permit to Take Water be denied.

Respectfully,

Linda Heron
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
(705) 866-1677

CC: Mitchell Schnier, Save Bala Falls – Mitchell@SaveTheBalaFalls.com
Premier Doug Ford – Premier@ontario.ca
Norm Miller, MPP PC – Norm.Miller@pc.ola.org

“A World of Healthy River Ecosystems”