

Ministry of the Environment,
Conservation and Parks

Environmental Assessment and
Permissions Division

135 St. Clair Avenue West
14th Floor
Toronto ON M4V 1P5

Ministère de l'Environnement, de
la Protection de la nature et des Parcs

Division des évaluations et des permissions
environnementales

135, avenue St. Clair Ouest
14^e étage
Toronto ON M4V 1P5



357-2020-1845

October 6, 2020

Mr. Frank Belerique
Vice President
Horizon Hydro Operations Limited
801 - 2300 Yonge Street
Toronto ON M4P 1E4
Email: fbelerique@horizonlegacy.com

Dear Mr. Belerique:

I am writing with regard to the Part II Order requests received by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the Trout Lake River Hydroelectric Project (Project) Class Environmental Assessment carried out by Horizon Hydro Operations Limited.

As part of our government's efforts to boost Ontario's economic recovery after COVID-19, we have passed the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020*, including amendments to the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The changes to the *Environmental Assessment Act* will allow us to build a strong environmental assessment program that effectively considers the input of local communities and focuses on projects that have the highest impact to the environment. The Act will continue to consider "the protection, conservation and wise management in Ontario of the environment." A key change made to the *Environmental Assessment Act* was to limit Part II Order requests to potential adverse impacts of projects on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. All Part II Order requests that were under review which do not pertain to potential adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights have been terminated by the amendments.

Due to the nature of concerns raised in the Part II Order requests for the Project, the Part II order requests will remain with the ministry under review. This review will focus on the concerns pertaining to potential adverse impacts on constitutionally protected Aboriginal or treaty rights. Any other concerns will not be considered, in accordance with the amendments to the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Mr. Frank Belerique
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Should you have any questions about the information provided in this letter, please contact Devon Wills directly at 416-270-4457 and devon.wills@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Sarah Paul
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environment Assessment and Permissions Division

c: Requesters
EA File No. 13037 – Trout Lake River Hydroelectric Project