

**Ministry of
the Environment**

Environmental Approvals
Branch

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**Ministère de
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June 17, 2014

Ms. Linda Heron
Chair, Ontario Rivers Alliance
Chair, Vermillion River Stewardship
linda.heron@rogers.com

Dear Ms. Heron,

Thank you for your June 16, 2014 letter and e-mail in which you request a meeting to discuss the Ontario Rivers Alliance (ORA) and Vermillion River Stewardship (VRS)' outstanding concerns with the proposed Wabagishik Rapids Waterpower Project (Project).

I would first like to take this opportunity to clarify some matters. You indicate in your letter that during your April 7, 2014 review of the public file for the Project, you were concerned with the statement in a draft comment table that indicated that "EAB [Environmental Approvals Branch] has indicated they are considering denying the Part II Order requests with conditions, noting it may be possible to impose detailed conditions to ensure all outstanding concerns are addressed." Please be advised that the draft comment table is an internal working document and does not reflect the ministry's position on the project or the Part II Order requests. The review of the Part II Order requests for this Project is still underway and the ministry is gathering information and technical advice. No decisions have been made with respect to the Part II Order requests. As you are aware, the Minister of Environment will make a decision to either 1) grant the request to elevate the project to an individual Environmental Assessment, 2) deny the request, or 3) deny the request with conditions.

You also express the ORA/VRS' concerns with aboriginal consultation for the Project, and refer to ministry comments in the draft table. As noted above, these comments should be considered draft, as the ministry's review of the project and the consultation efforts undertaken by the proponent has not been finalized.

Regarding your concern that the effects of the Project on contaminated sediment in the Vermillion River System were not mentioned in the draft table, please be aware that the ministry has been consulting with its technical staff on this matter and will be providing its response to this concern as part of the decision on the Part II Order requests. However, the ministry would be pleased to meet with ORA/VRS to have you present your concerns with the Project's

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potential effects on contaminated sediment. Please contact Dorothy Moszynski, Project Evaluator at 416-212-3693 or dorothy.moszynski@ontario.ca to arrange a meeting with the ministry.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Agatha Garcia-Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping tail.

Agatha Garcia-Wright
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch

c:

Stephanie Hodsoll, Xeneca Power Development Inc.
Ellen Cramm, MOE Northern Region
Chief Steven Miller, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
Chief Shining Turtle, Franklin Paibomsai; Whitefish River First Nation
Gord Miller, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario
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