



Coalition for
Equitable
Water Flow

SENT VIA EMAIL TO Baird.J@parl.pc.ca
And by Registered Mail

September 18th, 2007

The Hon. John Baird
Minister of Environment Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Re: **Trent Rapids Power Corporation**-Proposal for power generation
Plant at Locks 22 & 23 of the Trent Severn Waterway

Dear Sir:

It was with high hopes that the members of the Coalition for Equitable Water Flow (CEWF) welcomed the appointment of your Panel on the Future of the TSW. It is indeed comprised of a fine, diverse group of knowledgeable, capable people that represent the entire region surrounding the TSW.

However, it was to our dismay to discover on the final day of public meetings (Lakefield, Friday, September 21st, 2007) that the process to gain approval for a new power generation plant at Locks 22 & 23 was forging ahead in spite of the comprehensive review currently underway by the Panel. It is unfortunate that residents of the watershed regions of the TSW do not receive direct information of such proceedings as I understand that notices of public meetings are published in Canada Gazette and not in the local publications of areas that are a part of the TSW. Furthermore, I have now been advised that only those people who have already made submissions to the various agencies are allowed to present further at the hearings to be held in Peterborough on September 26th & 27th.

The members of the CEWF have agreed that I make the following comments on their behalf:

(1) Any decision on the Trent Rapids Power Corporation (TRPC) project must be held in abeyance until the Honourable Minister of Environment Canada responds to the recommendations of the Panel on the Future of the TSW. In fact the CEWF believes that all activity concerning the approval process relating to the TRPC project should be placed in abeyance until that time.

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(2) A letter dated October 20th, 2006 from Mr. Bruce Stanton, M.P., Simcoe North to Mr. Ken East of Parks Canada (TSW) where Mr. Stanton states "*I believe it is advisable that new renewable power proposals not be delayed by any action the Department may take in respect to the evaluation/review.*" is viewed by the CEWF as interference to the historical Panel process.

(3) The CEWF and many other groups and individuals made presentations and/or provided written submissions to the Panel in good faith. The quantity and, more importantly, the QUALITY of those submissions is a clear indication of the concern that thousands of Ontario residents have for the restoration, preservation and conservation of the TSW in its entirety.

(4) The members of the CEWF, as Canadian taxpayers object to the provision of public funds in the form of direct or indirect grants/price guarantees to private "for profit" corporations. Furthermore, the members understand that, with the exception of Trent Rapids Power Corporation, all other agencies involved with this project are publicly funded.

Mr. Minister, the CEWF and many others have put thousands of volunteer hours, hired professional resource people and fundraising effort toward providing the Panel with an accurate, comprehensive submission at no cost to the public. We acted in good faith toward ensuring the future of the TSW-a National Historic Site that includes our hope for its and our environmentally stable and economically sustainable future.

We, therefore, respectfully request your response to our request to either postpone the process for the Trent Rapids Power Corporation project or, at the very least, hold your decision on the matter until the future direction of the TSW is determined.

We look forward to your timely reply.

Respectfully,

THE COALITION FOR EQUITABLE WATER FLOW-HALIBURTON SECTOR, TSW

Bonnie Fleischaker, Chair