

MEMORANDUM

Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023

To: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
Environmental Assessment Branch
ATTN: Trevor Bell
135 St. Clair Avenue West, 1st Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M4V 1P5

From: Erik Giles P.Eng.

CC: Chris Stilwell, P.Eng., Ken Becking, P.Eng., Tim Sopkowe C.E.T.

RE: Burgess 1 Dam – Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment MECP Project File Comment Letter Responses

Dear Mr. Bell,

This memorandum documents TULLOCH's response to the letter dated January 16th, 2023, issued by the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) regarding commentary provided based on the review of the Project File Report (PFR) for the Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the rehabilitation of the Burgess 1 Dam located in Bala, Ontario.

The MECP Letter addressed three main points in their review letter of the PFR (TULLOCH Doc No. 20-1051-20-2050-0003) which are shown below: Responses by TULLOCH to each point are indicated below in bolded text.

- 1) MECP Bullet: The report should include a section summarizing the potential environmental impacts associated with the preferred solution, and measures to mitigate the potential impacts

TULLOCH Response: TULLOCH conducted an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as part of the EA process. The EIA report can be found in Appendix D of the PFR. The EIA report dictates potential hazards and mitigations based on the conceptual designs issued in the Dam Safety Review of 2019. The preferred solution for the EA involving the rehabilitation of the dam and the subsequent preliminary design brief outlined in Appendix I of the PFR has very similar design elements to the conceptual designs on which the EIA is based. As such similar potential impacts and mitigations would be required largely surrounding the in-water work of the tailrace area downstream of the dam. Furthermore, given the nature of the rehabilitation of the structure, the rehabilitation efforts will be within the existing construction footprint with minimal impact on undisturbed lands. Efforts for

the rehabilitation largely involve structural repairs to the existing dam, powerhouse and retaining structures. The majority of the mitigation/impacts would focus on in-water works for the repairs which will require obtaining the necessary permits from regulating bodies, respecting various species habitat windows (i.e., fish windows) and providing isolation of the work area via de-watering of the shallow tailrace area during construction. Generally, significant upstream works are not anticipated which would have been the largest potential impact.

- 2) MECP Bullet: In the matrix used to evaluate the alternative solutions, the Natural Environment criterion is given a weight of 15/100, which is less than the weighted averages for Public Safety and Economic Impact (30/100 and 20/100, respectively). Although the result of the evaluation would have been the same without assigning weighted averages to the evaluation criteria, please note for future submission that when assigning weighted averages to evaluate alternatives, the ministry encourages assigning a weighted average to the Natural Environment criteria that is greater than or equal to that of the other criteria in the evaluation.

TULLOCH Response: TULLOCH agrees with this point of clarification and will adhere to these recommendations in future EA projects and/or for future evaluations related to this project as it is carried forward into the design phase.

- 3) MECP Bullet: The Report should include a detailed record of consultation with Indigenous communities Please document any correspondence/engagement with potentially affected Indigenous communities. If no responses were received from any Indigenous communities identified for the project, the ministry recommends following up with these communities to ensure they are aware of their opportunity to participate in the project. Please document any follow-up attempts in the record of consultation.

TULLOCH Response: A list of Agency and First Nations contacts was developed, and a tracking spreadsheet was compiled to monitor and record the various correspondence throughout the project. This document has been attached to this memorandum with personal information redacted showing the contact history of various first nations communities identified as being a stakeholder for the project.

This memorandum has been prepared for the exclusive use of the Township of Muskoka Lakes. Within the limitations of scope, schedule and budget, our services have been executed in accordance with generally accepted practices in the field of engineering, for the Environmental Assessment for the Burgess 1 Dam. Assumptions made in this memorandum were based on interviews with stakeholders and a desktop study of available information. No warranty or other conditions, expressed or implied, should be understood.

We trust that the information in this memorandum will satisfy the comments made by the MECP as part of their review of the Burgess 1 Dam EA. Should further elaboration be required for any portion of this project, we would be pleased to provide assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Erik Giles'.

Erik Giles, P. Eng.
Geotechnical Engineer

Agency and First Nation Correspondence Tracking Sheet

[illegible]