

MNR114DC-2012-170

DEC 10 2012

Ms. Linda Heron
Chair
Ontario Rivers Alliance
379 Ronka Road
Worthington ON P0M 3H0

Dear Ms. Heron:

Thank you for your letter of October 12, 2012, regarding waterpower development.

The Ontario government has placed a priority on developing clean, renewable sources of energy, which will contribute to limiting the impact of climate change and building a green economy benefiting all Ontarians, including Northern and Aboriginal communities. Renewable energy projects, including waterpower, will help ensure a reliable and sustainable supply of electricity for the future.

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) plays a number of roles in waterpower development including:

- undertaking a current policy review of renewable energy development on Crown land;
- facilitating opportunities for Aboriginal economic benefits from waterpower proposals on Crown lands;
- reviewing our approval functions under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*;
- supporting ecological and socio-economic research to help inform renewable energy development decision making; and
- actively participating in the Ministry of the Environment-led review of individual waterpower class environmental assessments.

These efforts underscore the importance that MNR has placed on supporting a balanced approach to management of Ontario's waterways. Energy planning for Ontario is led by the Ministry of Energy, including decisions on the role that waterpower plays in Ontario's renewable energy supply mix. I encourage the Ontario Rivers Alliance to work with the Ministry of Energy in its long-term energy planning for Ontario.

For these reasons, MNR does not support your request to begin a provincial waterpower strategy review.

I am pleased to hear that the Ontario Rivers Alliance has been actively engaging in our Crown Land Renewable Energy Policy review and in the engagement process for modernizing our approach to water management planning.

I have asked our Biodiversity Branch and Renewable Energy Program to ensure that the Ontario Rivers Alliance continues to be part of consultations on these important topics. If you have any further questions, please contact Safa Fayek, Policy and Program Advisor, Renewable Energy Program, at (705) 755-5321 or safa.fayek@ontario.ca.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,



David O'Toole
Deputy Minister

c: Safa Fayek