



TOWNSHIP OF NAIRN AND HYMAN

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June 5, 2012

Xeneca Power Development Inc.
c/o Stephanie Hodsoll
6255 Yonge Street, Suite 1200
Toronto, Ontario
M2N 6P4

**Re: Waterpower Projects For the Proposed Wabagishik Rapids
Development**

Dear Ms Hodsoll:

Please be advised that our Council adopted the following motion at their meeting of June 4, 2012:

RESOLUTION #2012-9-117

MOVED BY: R. MacDonald

SECONDED BY: L. Falldien

- WHEREAS:** Xeneca Power Development Inc. is proposing three modified run-of-river hydroelectric dams for the Vermillion River, to be located at Cascade Falls, Soo Crossing and Wabagishik Rapids; and
- WHEREAS:** the Township of Nairn and Hyman is in favour of responsible and sustainable green energy projects that have had the input, consensus and blessing of the municipalities affected; and
- WHEREAS:** the modified run-of-river operating strategy would involve holding the majority of river water back from downstream flow for up to 24 hours to fill several kilometers of head ponds, and expose stored river water to solar warming for up to 16 hours during the hot low flow summer and fall seasons; and
- WHEREAS:** the nine waste water treatment facilities, releasing treated, undertreated and untreated effluent into the Vermillion River Watershed, along with heavy metals resulting from over 100 years of mining effluent and emissions that may have accumulated in the Vermillion riverbed sediment and that these cumulative negative effects could result in an increased incidence of toxic algae blooms

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and an unnecessary additional risk to the public health and safety of more than 13,000 citizens receiving their drinking water from the Vermillion River; and

WHEREAS: the modified peaking operating strategy could create extreme and frequent river flow velocity and water level changes on the Vermillion River system throughout the majority of the year, this could have an unacceptable negative impact on ice stability and year-round recreational activities such as swimming, boating, snowmobiling, skiing, ice and summer fishing, and create a public safety hazard and/or economic loss in tourism dollars; and

WHEREAS: the impacts of these proposed hydroelectric dams, cumulatively, could reach as far as the confluence of the Vermillion River with the Spanish River, and possibly all the way out to the Domtar Dam in Espanola, and considering this large potential zone of influence, the ecological, environmental, economic and social costs of these dams would be unacceptable; and

WHEREAS: the demand for power in Ontario has been significantly reduced in recent years, and there is much more that can be achieved through energy conservation and efficiencies before resorting to these measures; and

WHEREAS: the entire length of Wabagishik Rapids is unarguably an abundant Walleye spawning area, the loss of any part of this valuable natural resource would be unacceptable; and

WHEREAS: the presence of Lake Sturgeon, an endangered species, was recently confirmed downstream of Wabagishik Rapids, any additional pressure on this population would be unacceptable; and

WHEREAS: these proposals are within the Vermilion River corridor which drains the entire Vermilion River Watershed, and is a key connector for many other green spaces throughout the District of Sudbury, that the potential degradation and fragmentation of such a beautiful and important natural heritage feature would be unacceptable; and

WHEREAS: it has come to our attention that no dam decommissioning provisions are being made for any proposed hydroelectric dams in Ontario, and with scientists' predictions of climate change to bring increasing drought conditions, there is a possibility that these dams will no longer be environmentally, ecologically, economically or socially feasible in the near future, and in that case, removal of these dams would be left to the taxpayers, and this would be unacceptable,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

that due to the numerous negative impacts affecting water quality, water quantity, public health and safety, destruction of fish habitat and spawning areas, and the overall environmental, ecological social and economic costs that could result from these three proposed modified run-of-river hydroelectric dams, the Corporation of the Township of Nairn and Hyman resolves to strongly oppose these proposals for Cascade Falls, Soo Crossing and Wabagishik Rapids, on the Vermilion River, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

that communication of this decision will be made to Xeneca Power Development Inc., the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Natural Resources, the local Member of Provincial Parliament, in the local newspapers, the local municipalities of the LaCloche Foothills Area, City of Greater Sudbury and the Whitefish First Nations.

CARRIED

Sincerely Yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Deschene', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Robert Deschene
CAO/jh

cc: The Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
The Hon. Chris Bentley, Minister of Energy
The Hon. Jim Bradley, Minister of Environment
The Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Natural Resources
Michael Mantha, MPP, Algoma-Manitoulin
Vermilion River Stewardship, Linda Heron, Chair
City of Greater Sudbury
Whitefish First Nation
Township of Baldwin
Town of Espanola
Township of Sables-Spanish Rivers
Mid North Monitor, Espanola
Around and About, Espanola
Sudbury Star