



**Environment and Climate Change
Office of the Minister**

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File number: 10700-40-58663

January 10, 2023

Warden Penny Smith
Warden@municipalityofshelburne.ca

Dear Warden Smith:

Thank you for your December 1, 2022, letter, regarding the Water Approval for the Roseway River Hydropower System. I wish to recognize the ongoing efforts of the Municipality to work with Nova Scotia Power (NSP) on behalf of your constituents to understand and contribute to practical opportunities to improve fish passage.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) acknowledges the role of hydropower developments in the province, and ECC has been permitting the non-operable condition at the Roseway Dam site since 2013. The approval holder, NSP, remains responsible for environmental performance.

In 2019 DFO confirmed to ECC that the Roseway Dam in its current configuration created a barrier to fish passage. Since that time ECC has required NSP to work towards a fish passage solution. Beginning in 2020, mitigation measures for eel have been installed seasonally and studies reviewing the performance of those measures have been undertaken. The Municipality brought forward important information about site conditions which may have influenced the results of the eel passage studies. As a result of this information and recommendations from ECC and DFO's science teams, NSP will undertake an additional year of study in 2023 to review the efficacy of the eel ropes.

As a condition of their Approval, ECC has included requirements for the installation of temporary mitigations for fish passage: eel ropes (continuing the protocol from 2022), as well as measures for other fish species in the river. Additionally, we have required that NSP provide progress reports demonstrating that they are completing the studies and design work necessary to identify and implement fish passage solutions. NSP has committed that the options include redevelopment to be able to generate power, site stabilization, or decommissioning / re-naturalization (complete removal of the dam).

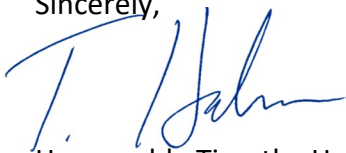
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I trust that you find the above summary of the requirements placed at the Roseway Dam satisfactory. They align to address the issues and opportunities reflected in your December 1, 2022, letter. ECC appreciates the input and local information that the Municipality has brought forward. This has contributed significantly to understanding site conditions and a path forward for the site.

Thank you again for your advocacy to continuously improve how we protect and support Nova Scotia's water resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Halman', written over a horizontal line.

Honourable Timothy Halman, MLA
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

c: Nolan Young, MLA, Shelburne