

Conservation and Water Stewardship

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June 26, 2013

Mr. Terry Sargeant
Chair
Clean Environment Commission
Room 305 – 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8

Dear Mr. Sargeant:

Re: Keeyask Generation Project – Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership

A cooperative environmental assessment process led by Manitoba has been underway since December, 2011 for the Keeyask Generation Project. The cooperative assessment has been conducted pursuant to the *Canada – Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation*, with the objective of acquiring the environmental assessment information needed by Manitoba to make a licensing decision under *The Environment Act*, and by Canada to make a decision pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

The joint federal-provincial Project Administration Team (PAT) for the environmental assessment of the project has considered the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted on July 6, 2012 by the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership, and the Partnership's responses to two rounds of requests for additional information to address public and Technical Advisory Committee comments. These two additional information documents were filed on November 19, 2012 and April 26, 2013. It is noted that the Partnership is still working on responses for additional information requests from the participating federal departments. These responses are anticipated shortly. Satisfactory information has been received to address all provincial items.

The body of environmental assessment information now available or anticipated to be available shortly includes:

- The EIS and responses to requests for additional information;
- Public and Technical Advisory Committee comments on this material; and
- Information from the Partnership in response to requests from the Clean Environment Commission and public hearing participants

Given the availability of this information, all outstanding environmental issues should be addressable following the conclusion of the Commission's public hearing on the project. Accordingly, I support proceeding with the public hearing on the project.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracey Braun".

Tracey Braun, M.Sc.
Director
Environmental Approvals Branch

- c. Tracy Utting, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency