

PROJECT DESCRIPTION – STREAM FLOW STATION IN LITTLE ABITIBI PROVINCIAL PARK

This project description is supplemental to Environmental Registry Number 010-4962, Little Abitibi Provincial Park Management Statement Amendment. The stream flow station project is being evaluated as a Category B project under the Class EA PPCR.

Project Background

The Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), Taykwa Tagamou Nation (TTN), and Ontario Power Generation (OPG) are proposing to install a temporary stream flow station (i.e., gauge, probe, conduit and trail) in the New Post Creek portion of Little Abitibi Provincial Park (LAPP), downstream of the mouth of Cheena Creek. The project also includes creating a helipad outside of the park on adjacent Crown land. Once set up, the stream flow station would provide real time monitoring of the levels and flows of New Post Creek necessary for the engineering and economic assessment of a potential water-power facility at New Post Creek, currently within LAPP. In future, broad consultation for the proposed water-power facility, a park boundary amendment, and a land-use amendment will be undertaken, if such a facility is deemed viable.

Purpose

The collection, interpretation and dissemination of surface water quantity data and information is vital to meet both water management and environmental needs both at the provincial and federal level. The data is also important to TTN and OPG because it will provide reliable, accurate and ongoing data for daily average flows and elevations, and water temperature.

A number of entities require surface water data. Should TTN/OPG decide not to pursue the hydroelectric project, TTN/OPG will confirm that there is not interest in the data from the various entities noted, and should this be the case, TTN/OPG will decommission the stream flow station.

Project Details

The proposed location for the stream flow station is in the stretch of New Post Creek that starts approximately 100 metres downstream of the proposed weir for the hydroelectric development to the top of New Post Creek Falls. The preference is to locate the gauge well upstream of the falls area. The proposed gauge is to be located on New Post Creek approximately 10 km north northeast

of Abitibi Canyon and 1 km east of Abitibi River at the proposed following coordinates: UTM 463406 5534756.

The project application contains the following components:

- A gauge house 1.5 X 1.5 metre or a pole-mounted instrument enclosure secured on a steel base anchored into the ground above the freshet flood plain.
- A shallow ditch or trench excavated to conceal an orifice line from the gauge house to the river shore.
- A probe, into the river connected to a line extending 20 metres out into the river from the shore and secured by patio stone.
- A trail, from a helipad located outside the park, 150 metres long and two metres wide.
- A helipad, 10 X 10 metres, located outside the park. Clearing would be done using a chain saw, brush saw and brush axe.

The study area that may be affected in Little Abitibi Provincial Park, at New Post Creek, is less than $<100\text{m}^2$ (gauge, probe, conduit, trail). The park is 20,296 hectares. The proposed location of the gauge is shown on Figure 1. The area affected on Crown land outside of the park is 100 m^2 .

Decommissioning of Equipment

The intention of this temporary stream flow station installation is to gather elevation and flow data for a maximum of five years. If TTN and OPG decide not to pursue waterpower facility development, the gauge and all ancillary structures and equipment will be removed and the site restored.

Figure 1 - Proposed Stream Flow Station Location

