

Notice of Intent to Undertake a Detailed Impact Analysis

Peterborough Utilities Inc. Buckhorn Hydro Project

2017-12-21

Peterborough Utilities Inc. (PUI) is proposing the development of the Buckhorn Hydro Project between Buckhorn Lake and Lower Buckhorn Lake in the hamlet of Buckhorn, Ontario. Peterborough Utilities Buckhorn Hydro LP (PUBH) is a limited partnership with PUI and the Curve Lake Economic Development Corporation. The project located on the Trent Severn Waterway on Federal lands under the administration of the Parks Canada Agency (PCA) and this is a notice that the PCA has determined that a Detailed Impact Analysis (DIA) is required. The DIA will follow the requirements of the Parks Canada Directive on Impact Assessment (2015) under Section 67 of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012.

PUBH, the project proponent, has been awarded a contract from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) through the Large Renewable Procurement program to develop a waterpower facility located on the Trent-Severn Waterway. The proposed project involves the installation of a waterpower facility with a name plate capacity of approximately 2.5 megawatts (MW) adjacent to the existing Buckhorn Dam. The Buckhorn Dam in its current form was originally constructed in and around the 1970s, and does not currently produce waterpower. The general site location of the proposed project is illustrated on the figure below.

The DIA for the proposed project will assess the potential effects, both positive and negative, to the environment, which includes the natural, socio-economic and cultural landscape in which the project is to be developed and operated. Potential effects to valued ecosystem components (e.g. fisheries, Species at Risk, cultural resources) will be assessed for their potential interaction with the environment, and mitigation measures will be developed in order to avoid, eliminate or minimize the severity of negative effects.

Interested members of the public will have several opportunities to learn more about the proposed undertaking and provide comments and concerns on the observed benefits and impacts of the project, including (dates provided are approximate):

- A Public Consultation Meeting proposed to be held in the community of Buckhorn, Ontario (February 2018) at the Buckhorn Community Centre or the St. Matthew – St. Aiden Anglican Church;
- A 30-day public review and comment period of the Draft DIA Report (April 2018);
- A Notice in the Canada Gazette with a 30-day review and comment period of the Final DIA Report and the application under the *Dominion Water Power Act* (May/June 2018).

Information and updates can also be viewed on the project website:

http://www.pui.ca/Generation/Peterborough_Utilities_Buckhorn_Hydro.htm.

The project is proceeding through approvals associated with the *Dominion Water Power Act* and may require review and approval under other applicable federal legislations such as the *Species at Risk Act*, *Fisheries Act*, and the *Department of Transport Act* (Historic Canals Regulations). Review and approval may also be required under provincial legislation, such as the *Environmental Assessment Act*, *Endangered Species Act*, *Highway Traffic Act*, *Ontario Water Resources Act* and the *Environmental Protection Act* as well as municipal by-laws. The complete list of required permits and approvals will be confirmed throughout the planning process. This notice and the public consultation process for the project under the DIA process is intended to coordinate and meet the notification requirements relevant to the planning stage of the project under these statutes.

Public consultation is an integral component of this process. You are invited to provide comments on the issues to be addressed, and/or to ask to be placed on the project's mailing list. Future notices will be provided to all parties who

expressed interest as a result of this Notice of Intent to Undertake a DIA or who have participated in the consultation process. For information on the project proposal, to raise any issues or concerns, or to be placed on the mailing list, contact:

DIA Coordinator

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Questions related to Parks Canada's Environmental Impact Assessment Directive or the *Dominion Water Power Act* as it applies to Parks Canada's Ontario Waterways may be directed to:

Jane Tymoshuk

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Parks Canada / Government of Canada
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