



October 29, 2009

Bruce Valpy
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Dear Editor:

I must take issue with your editorial of October 28: *"Power corp's crumbling reputation – dam replacement"*.

We knew the dam was deteriorating and would eventually need replacing. Reviews done by AMEC, our insurers and a 2005 Dam Safety Review all indicated that there was time for an orderly replacement. Work was done to extend the life of the dam as recommended by the Dam Safety Review to allow for this orderly replacement.

Before an orderly replacement could begin a hole developed in the impermeable barrier that prevents the dam from leaking at an unacceptable rate. This damage increased the leakage to the point that the dam's condition entered an accelerated rate of deterioration. That's the nature of an emergency; conditions changed quickly.

There are several conditions that are contributing to the emergency. Firstly, the deterioration of the dam has accelerated at a rate that couldn't be predicted in 2001 or even last year. Secondly we have been experiencing very high water levels due to rain fall that has increased the pressure on the dam.

If it fails, replacement power will be generated through diesel plants, which puts air quality and the environment at risk while greatly increasing the cost of power. If it fails there will be a negative impact on Prosperous Lake. We have an obligation to take all reasonable steps to prevent this from occurring.

That's why, as allowed under the Act, we asked the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board to allow construction of a new dam to proceed under emergency provisions. After providing the Board with additional information they agreed to this request.

The Board's decision does not exempt NTPC from complying with environmental oversight or directives. NTPC has been completing environmental and archaeological studies. During the water licensing process impacts on the environment will be reviewed and conditions attached to the water licence to ensure the environment is protected. .

The emergency exemption assures the corporation that it can move equipment and materials to site over the ice road and begin construction in the spring. Following the normal approval process would have delayed this project a year. The compromised state of the existing structure requires an aggressive timeline. NTPC plans to commission the dam in 2011.

For you to suggest that we have been anything but diligent in our efforts is a misrepresentation of the facts. You're second-guessing the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, the Dam Safety Review, NTPC and others. Why not allow the facts to speak for themselves. You can find them on our web site: www.ntpc.com.

Sincerely,

Mike Bradshaw
Director, Corporate Communications