Hydro Québec

April 12, 2018

Stella Leney, Ad. E.
Vice President – Corporate Affairs and
Secretary General
Édifice Jean-Lesage
20e étage
75, boulevard René-Lévesque Ouest
Montréal (Québec) H2Z 1A4

[redacted]

Re: Access to information request C-6109

Dear Sir:

We are writing in response to your request for access to information received on March 23, 2018 in which you have requested the following:

> *" I would appreciate your investigating the operations of the Carillon Dam on the day of 2017-05-09 07:05 to 2017-05-09 07:10*
>
> *During that time flow from the Carillon Dam was reduced from 8726 m3/sec to 8100 m3/sec within a 5 minute period "unwarranted" based on Head Pond levels.*
>
> *This precipitous rate of change in Flow resulted in levels rising at the head pond level of 1 cm/5 minutes for a 30 minute period before partial corrective actions were initiated. Head pond Levels increased from an initial operating level of 40.50 M to 40.59M within a 1:45 hour/min period.*
>
> *It was not until 2017-05-09 08:25 at which time flow was increased back to 8756 and levels were stabilized @ 40.59 M.*
>
> *Flow levels were **further increased at that time to 9233 m3/sec** to reduce head Pond levels back to the previous operating level of 40.50 M.*
>
> *As a result of this activity overall flow rate increased from an average of 8681 m3/sec to a peak level of 9233 to correct for this procedure.*
> *An overall increase of 552 m3/sec **directly at the peak level event of the Flood Period**.*
>
> *This created conditions well outside existing estimated flow levels of the ORRPB, and corrective actions being initiated by local municipalities based on projections.*
>
> *This would have resulted in a potentially avoidable rise of water levels for the local community above flood expected peak levels and significant increase in undulating wave erosion on nearby properties.*
>
> *I would like to know*
>
> *a) the reason for these activities and*
> *b) that preventative measures be initiated*
> *c) to ensure actions of this nature, do not reoccur in the future if at all possible*

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In addition, throughout the spring freshet period the Head Pond level was maintained at a level of 40.50 M.
According to the current inundation plan attached the maximum head pond level for normal operations should be 40.08 M

An explanation should also be offered to explain the justification of allowing for increased Undulating Waves as a result of these changes.

3 Plan de gestion des eaux retenues
Le plan de gestion des eaux à l'aménagement de Carillon a été préparé par l'unité Innovation technologique et gestion des systèmes hydriques de la direction Expertise de centrales. Une copie intégrale de ce rapport (réf. 3) est incluse en annexe. Les principales informations tirées du plan de gestion des eaux retenues se résument comme suit :
• contraintes générales liées à la gestion du bief amont :
• niveau maximal critique : 41,15 m;
• niveau maximal d'exploitation : 41,11 m(1). En période de crue printanière, le niveau maximal est de 40,08 m quand le niveau au quai de Hull dépasse la cote de servitude de 42,61 m;
1 La correction du niveau maximal à 41,11 m est effective depuis octobre 2004. Dans le rapport d'évaluation de la sécurité, la valeur de 41,15 m a été utilisée.Addenda au rapport d'évaluation de la sécurité de l'aménagement de Carillon Décembre 2004 5
• niveau minimal critique : 39,62 m. En dehors de la période de navigation, le niveau minimal d'exploitation est de 40,54 m. En période de navigation, le minimum est de 40,84 m. En période de crue, le minimum est de 39,62 m;
• niveau minimal critique : 39,62 m.

The above 2 scenarios appear to be out of recommended operating procedures for the Carillion Dam and as such put the Riparian community at increased risk." (sic)

In response to your request, we would like to inform you that lower inflows from the Rivière des Outaouais (Ottawa River) on the morning of May 9, 2017, meant that Hydro-Québec could reduce the spillway discharge at Carillon generating station. The action to reduce the discharge began at 7:05 a.m. on May 9. This operation did not produce the expected result, leading to a greater reduction in flow than anticipated. Considering how the water level upstream from the generating station rose immediately after this operation, the discharge flow was gradually increased, beginning at 7:25 a.m., 20 minutes after the first operation to control the water level upstream. The water level upstream from Carillon rose from 40.50 to 40.59 m within two hours, requiring us to temporarily increase the discharge flow rate at Carillon in order to lower the water level back to 40.50 m. The water level measured downstream from Carillon rose by less than 5 cm the morning of May 9 following these operations.

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An application for review of this decision may be submitted to the Commission d'accès à l'information. A note outlining the process is enclosed.

Yours truly,

[redacted]

Stella Leney
Person in charge of access to documents
and protection of personal information

Encl.