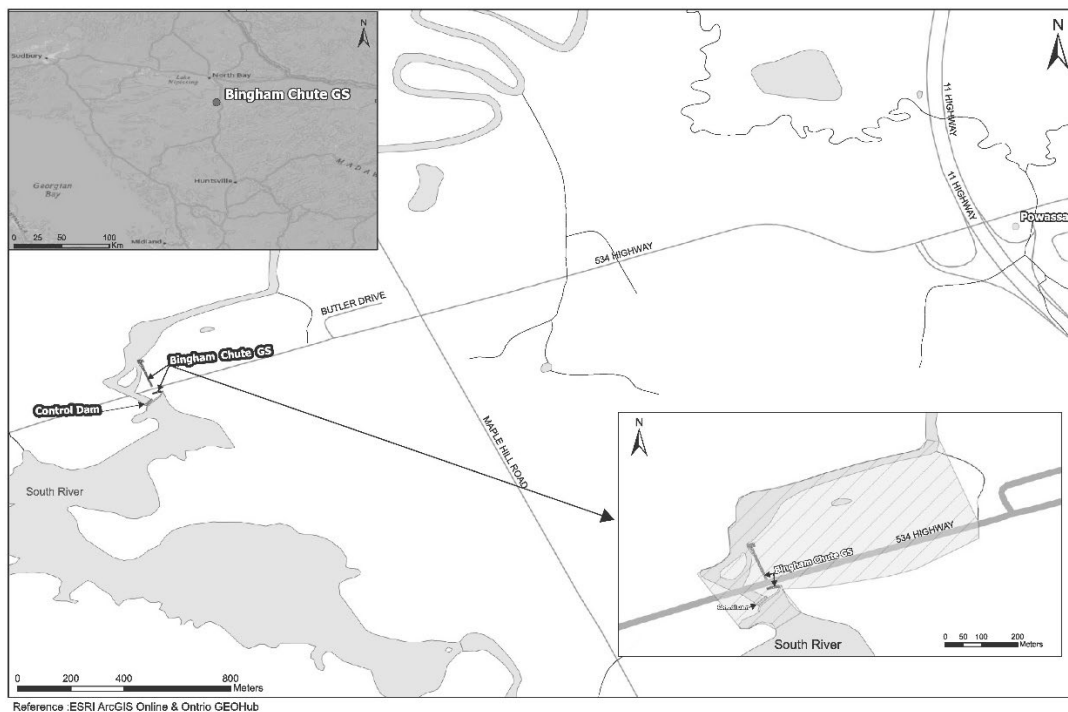


NOTICE OF PROJECT SCREENING UNDER THE ONTARIO WATERPOWER ASSOCIATION CLASS EA FOR WATERPOWER PROJECTS: BINGHAM CHUTE LIFE EXTENSION WATERPOWER PROJECT

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is planning to undertake a project screening for the proposed Bingham Chute Life Extension Waterpower Project. The project is subject to the provisions of the Ontario Waterpower Association (OWA) Class Environmental Assessment (Class EA) for Waterpower Projects for *Projects Associated with Existing Infrastructure or Increases in Efficiency on Managed Waterways*.

As detailed on the map below, the existing Bingham Chute Generating Station (GS) is on the South River within the Town of Powassan, Ontario, approximately 27 kilometers south of North Bay, Ontario. OPG does not plan to alter the approved water levels and flows as described in the *South River Water Management Plan* (WMP). As such, the anticipated zone of influence for the project is limited to the immediate area around the station where effects from construction may be experienced (and is shown as a hatched area below). A minor amendment to the WMP will be required under the *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act*. This notice for the project under the Class EA is intended to coordinate and meet the notification requirements relevant to the planning stage of the project under both the *Environmental Assessment Act* and *Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act* statutes.



OPG is proposing to refurbish the existing Bingham Chute GS and re-use the existing powerhouse.

The Bingham Chute GS is at or approaching its end-of-service life with about one hundred years of continuous operation with the original generating equipment. The station is also undersized to the current design approach of waterpower generating stations, and most of the controls are non-automated, still relying heavily on operator inputs. The life extension of the Bingham Chute GS provides an opportunity to better utilize and manage the available river flows, as well as upgrade the monitoring and control system, and extend the service life of the facility. The Bingham Chute GS currently has two small turbines with an installed capacity of 0.43 megawatts (MW) per turbine. The proposed refurbished facility would also have two turbines with a proposed installed capacity of 1.0 MW each - for a total station capacity of 2.0 MW. Therefore, the life extension project will increase the average annual energy

generation by more than double, adding an important new supply of renewable electricity to the provincial grid. Along with the newly installed turbines the old control, mechanical, electrical and other systems internal to the powerhouse will be replaced with new equipment. However, the overall layout of the Bingham Chute GS site and its civil works such as the main dam, dykes, sluiceway, parking and other general areas will remain largely unchanged. The site will not be expanded and there is no predicted increase to the footprint of the water management infrastructure. As such, the proposed undertaking is consistent with the Class EA screening process of limiting water management infrastructure to 25% or less.

OPG anticipates that this screening process will occur from April 14 to May 9 2025. If you wish to receive the Screening Report please contact Edward Naval as indicated below. An early construction commencement date has been identified for August 2026.

This project is being screened in accordance with the process outlined in section 3.1.1 of the Class EA for Waterpower Projects. For further information about the proposal, please contact:

Edward Naval

Senior Environmental Advisor
Ontario Power Generation
800 Kipling Avenue
Toronto, ON
M8Z 5G4
Phone: (416)231-4111 ext. 4137
Email: edward.naval@opg.com

Phil Shantz

Environmental Planning Leader
Arcadis Canada
8133 Warden Ave. Unit 300
Markham, ON
L6G 1B3
905-764-9380 or 647-542-2186
E-mail: phil.shantz@arcadis.com

The Class EA process requires OPG to complete a screening to confirm that there are no significant negative environmental effects anticipated from the project. As a first step in the screening process, this Notice of Project Screening is being publicly posted and sent directly to: key provincial Ministries; anyone potentially directly affected by the project; and potentially affected Indigenous communities. Projects that are screened out of the Class EA remain subject to applicable provincial and federal legislation as outlined in Table 1 of the Class EA. Following the completion of the Screening process and during the construction phase of the project a few other permits and/or approvals may be required for the project.

You are invited to provide comments on the key considerations to be addressed. For information on the project proposal, contact Edward Naval or Phil Shantz as above.

For more detail, please visit <http://opgprojects.com/binghamchute/>.

All personal information included in a submission – such as name, address, telephone number and property location – is collected, maintained and disclosed by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks for the purpose of transparency and consultation. The information is collected under the authority of the *Environmental Assessment Act* or is collected and maintained for the purpose of creating a record that is available to the general public as described in s.37 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA). Personal information you submit will become part of a public record that is available to the general public unless you request that your personal information remain confidential. For more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment Conservation and Parks's Freedom of Information and Privacy.