

**APPENDIX H**  
**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**  
**PROGRAM REPORT**

**BLIND RIVER  
WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN  
PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAM  
REPORT**

## H1 Introduction

A Public Consultation Program (PCP) was prepared by MNR in accordance with the approved WMP guidelines. A copy of this program is included in this appendix. To reflect the degree of complexity of this WMP, a more streamlined approach to public consultation was employed. Two Open House sessions were planned, as compared to five for a highly complex WMP. These sessions were held at the Invitation to Participate stage, and the Draft Plan Review stage.

Throughout the development of the WMP the public was encouraged to participate through interaction with various MNR and members of the planning team and the Public Advisory Committee (Resource Management Advisory Committee).

## H2 Public Notices

Public Notices were given in the main local newspapers the week before each of the open house sessions. Notices were placed in the Elliot Lake Standard, the Blind River Sentinel, and the Thessalon Sentinel. Details of the placement of these notices are listed in Table H1. Copies of the notices are also included.

Newspaper	Stage	Date
Elliot Lake Standard	Invitation to Participate	July 28, 2002
Blind River Sentinel		July 26, 2002
North Shore Sentinel		July 30, 2002
Elliot Lake Standard	Draft Plan Review	October 22, 2003
Blind River Sentinel		October 21, 2003
North Shore Sentinel		October 22, 2003

## H3 French Language Services

Each public notice included a sentence, in French, which indicated where information on the subject matter of the notice could be obtained in the French language.

French speaking staff was available to assist the French-speaking public at all public information centres.

## H4 Environmental Bill of Rights

The *Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR)* provides opportunities for public consultation and comment for notices to be placed on the provincial EBR Environmental Registry. This notice was placed at the initial stage of the WMP process, Invitation to Participate, and was updated at the scoping and draft plan stages. The internet address for the posting is

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envregistry/019947ex.htm>.

Contents of the initial EBR posting are listed below. This notice was revised at the scoping and draft plan review stages.

**EBR Registry Number:** PB02E6021      **Type of Notice:** Policy - *don't worry about that, it's related to software incompatibility issues*

**Ministry:** Natural Resources      **Status of Notice:** Exception - *same issues*

**Date Exception / Information Notice Posted:** *anticipate August 7, 2002*

**Reason for Exception / Information Notice:** Information Posting under EBR s. 6 (no comments)

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## **EXCEPTION / INFORMATION NOTICE FOR POLICY**

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### **Title:**

Water Management Plan for the Blind River – Invitation to Participate

### **Exception / Information Notice Rationale:**

The Environmental Bill of Rights Act does not require this notice to be placed on the Environmental Registry, however, section 6 of the Environmental Bill of Rights allows the Environmental Registry to be used to share information about the environment with the public.

In this case, no Comment Period is being provided for this information posting.

### **Additional Rationale:**

In December 2000, the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act (LRIA) was amended to establish the authority for the Minister of Natural Resources to order dam owners to prepare management plans in accordance with guidelines approved by the Minister (Registry Number AB00E4001). This authority in relation of the preparation, amendment, approval and enforcement of management plans was further amended in June 2002, LRIA s. 23(1.1) (Registry Number AB02E6001).

This proposal is considered to be an instrument under the EBR; however, it is not prescribed by Ontario Regulation 681/94 as a classified proposal for purposes of the EBR. Therefore, MNR is not required to post water management plans on the Environmental Registry.

MNR is voluntarily posting this Information Notice on the Environmental Registry for information purposes to advise interested parties of the formal public consultation opportunities being carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Water Management Planning Guidelines for Waterpower (WMPG) (Registry Number PB01E6004). To participate in that consultation process, the public is invited to submit comments to the contact person identified below.

No formal comment period is established under the EBR through this notice.

**Short Description:**

A water management plan (WMP) is now being prepared for the Blind River. The WMP will address the management of in-stream flows and levels in the river as they are affected by the operation of waterpower projects and water control projects owned by 1173403 Ontario Limited, and the Town of Blind River, and water control projects owned by MNR and 1173403 Ontario Limited.

The Blind River is approximately 66 kilometres long, and flows in a southerly direction to its confluence with Lake Huron. The Blind River is situated in the District of Algoma, along the north shore of the North Channel of Lake Huron. The river supports a range of uses, such as seasonal and year-round residence, tourism, and fishing. The Town of Blind River operates one small waterpower facility, and 1173403 Ontario Limited operates two larger water power facilities, at the outflows of Chiblow and Canoe Lakes.

The WMP will be developed by a planning team having representation from the above waterpower owners and MNR, Mississauga First Nation, and the public. A steering committee, comprised of representatives of the above dam owners, agencies and First Nations, will provide direction to the planning team. A public advisory committee, with representation from across the river basin, has been established to provide advice on the development of the water management plan, and to assist in public consultation.

Web-links are provided below to fact sheets on water management planning as well as to the Water Management Planning Guidelines.

**Purpose of the Notice:**

To advise the public that the terms of reference for the Blind River WMP will be available for public review at the locations and during the times and dates set out below.

**Decision:**

This notice will be updated, as new information becomes available.

**Other Relevant Information:**

In addition to the government office listed below, copies of the Terms of Reference are available from

Kay Ashwood  
Acres International Limited  
Environmental Assessment Division  
4342 Queen Street, P. O. Box 1001  
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2E 6W1  
Phone: (905) 374-5200 Fax: (905) 374-1157

All comments and submissions will become part of the public record. All comments and contact (name and address) information received may be forwarded to the project applicant unless specifically requested otherwise. For more information on the collection and use of the personal information, contact Tom Mispel-Beyer at (705) 949-1231.

**Other Public Consultation:**

Formal public consultation is planned to occur at a minimum of two stages during the preparation, review and approval of this plan. Direct written notice will be given to certain individuals and organizations at each stage of the planning process; individuals and organizations may request to be added to this list, which is updated at each stage. Public notice is given through advertisements in local newspapers.

The following is a summary of public consultation (dates beyond the Invitation to Participate are tentative):

Stage One – Invitation to participate: The comment period is from August 8, 2002 until September 9, 2002. An open house will be held at the Blind River Marina conference room from 2-8 p.m. on August 8, 2002.

Stage Two – Review of Background Information/Scoping Report: tentative dates for comment period are January 1, 2003 to February 1, 2003.

Stage Three – Review of Options: tentative dates for comment period are February 3, 2003 to March 5, 2003.

Stage Four – Review of Draft Plan: tentative dates for comment period are March 24, 2003 to April 24, 2003.

Stage Five – Approved Plan: tentative date for plan approval is July 2, 2003.

Local native communities with traditional uses in the area may request a separate native consultation process.

**Contact Person:**

Ray Lipinski, Planning Biologist, ext. 232  
MNR Blind River Area Office  
P.O. Box 190, 62 Queen Avenue  
Blind River, Ontario, P0R 1B0  
Phone: (705) 356-2234 Fax: (705) 356-7441

**Some Government offices have additional information on this proposal for viewing. These are listed below:**

MNR Blind River Area Office  
P.O. Box 190, 62 Queen Avenue  
Blind River, Ontario, P0R 1B0  
Phone: (705) 356-2234 Fax: (705) 356-7441

**Additional material in support of this notice is available by clicking the following hyperlink(s):**

<http://204.40.253.254/envregistry/016790ep.htm>  
<http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/MNR/waterpower/>  
[http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90103\\_e.htm](http://192.75.156.68/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90103_e.htm)

## **H5 Consultation Stages**

### **Stage One – Planning Organization and Commencement**

Stage One of the public consultation process began with an Invitation to Participate in the initial scoping and included a public information center. This public information session was held on August 8, 2002 at the Blind River Marina conference room. The purpose of the public consultation opportunity was:

- to advise the public that water management planning was beginning for the Blind River system
- to explain the planning goal and objectives
- to provide access to information to be used in the water management planning process
- to request contributions to the background information to be used in planning
- to identify resource values and request issues that may be addressed in planning
- to request the public's views on the desired benefits from the river system which can be achieved through the management of water levels and flows.

This notice was placed at the commencement of the water management planning process, and included information available at this stage of the process, and provided direction on how to obtain access to this information.

A mail-out was done 2 weeks before the public information session. It consisted of a copy of the newspaper notice for the Invitation to Participate.

A mailing list was developed for the purpose of public consultations for the Blind River Water Management Plan. The source for this list included existing MNR contacts, the Town of Blind River tax rolls (waterfront property owners), the Matinenda Cottagers Association, as well as any individuals who had communicated an interest in participating. The mailing list is provided below.

All persons attending the Information Session were requested to complete a sign in sheet, and complete a questionnaire if they had comments or information to provide. A copy of the completed sign-in sheet and the questionnaire is included at the end of this appendix. A summary of comments and issues identified by the public is included in Table 6.1. Twenty one people signed in at the initial open house.

### **Stage Two – Scoping, Options, and Draft Plan Review**

Because of the low complexity of the Blind River WMP, the planning team decided to consolidate stages two (scoping), three (options) and four (draft plan).

A Public Information Session was held on October 30, 2003 at the Blind River Marina. Newspaper notices were placed in local newspapers the week before this session. A mail-out was also conducted two weeks before. The mail-out contained the same notice as was placed in local newspapers. The mailing list was modified from the initial mail-out to include additional persons who expressed an interest in the WMP since the first mail-out.

The purpose of the Information Center was

- to provide a public review and comments on scoping information
- to request additional contributions to the background information and other information to be considered in decision-making
- to provide a formal opportunity for public review and comment on the analysis of water management options
- to provide a formal opportunity for public review and comment on the preferred option
- to provide a public review and comment on the proposed operations before finalizing decisions on the draft WMP.

Ten people attended the Draft Plan Review Open House. A copy of the sign-in sheet is included at the end of this appendix. Public comments received at or following this session are included in Table 6.1a.

### **Stage Three – Plan Viewing**

This stage of the public consultation process provides an opportunity to review the final plan as approved by the delegated authority of the Ministry of Natural Resources. A notice will be issued upon approval of the WMP by the MNR Regional Director, or delegated authority, and



before the date of plan implementation. The purpose of this public consultation opportunity is to advise the public that the water management plan has been completed and approved, and to provide a formal opportunity for the public to examine the MNR approved water management plan.

A summary of the approved WMP and a list of the major changes to the draft WMP will be available for public distribution at the Blind River Area Office of the MNR.

The following questionnaire was available for the public to provide comments or information:

## Blind River Water Management Plan Questionnaire

We are continuing to collect background information for the Blind River Water Management Plan. You can help us by taking a few minutes to respond to the following questions and return the completed form to the address at the end. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your comments.

1. Do you live or work in the Blind River Watershed? Yes  No

If yes - Permanent resident  Seasonal resident   
First Nation  Recreational (hunt) camp   
Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. Are you a commercial operator? Yes  No

Lodge/motel/hotel <input type="checkbox"/>	Tour Operator <input type="checkbox"/>	Bed and Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/>
Campsite/trailer park <input type="checkbox"/>	Marina <input type="checkbox"/>	Cabins <input type="checkbox"/>
Golf course <input type="checkbox"/>	Private camp <input type="checkbox"/>	Hunting/Trapping <input type="checkbox"/>
Outfitter <input type="checkbox"/>	Float Plane Base <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____
Retail outlet <input type="checkbox"/>		

3. Are you an industrial operator? Yes  No

Sawmill/logging <input type="checkbox"/>	Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/>	Construction <input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____	

4. Is the property you own/lease/visit or work at, on a shoreline of the Blind River system?  
Yes  No

If yes - which lake or section of the Blind River?  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are your major interests/activities in the Blind River Watershed?

### *Recreational Activities*

Boating <input type="checkbox"/>	Canoeing <input type="checkbox"/>	Kayaking <input type="checkbox"/>
Water Skiing <input type="checkbox"/>	Birdwatching <input type="checkbox"/>	Hiking <input type="checkbox"/>
Fishing <input type="checkbox"/>	Wildlife viewing <input type="checkbox"/>	Swimming <input type="checkbox"/>
Hunting <input type="checkbox"/>	Snowmobiling <input type="checkbox"/>	Snow Skiing <input type="checkbox"/>
ATVing/Off Road <input type="checkbox"/>	Ice Fishing <input type="checkbox"/>	Other _____

### *Economic Activities*

Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Trapping <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism <input type="checkbox"/>	Farming <input type="checkbox"/>	Forestry <input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____		



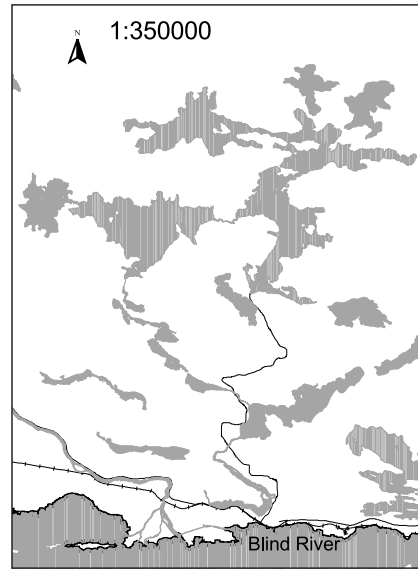
# Draft Plan Review

## Water Management Planning for the Blind River System

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) invites you to participate in review of a **draft water management plan (WMP)** for the Blind River System. There are presently three small hydroelectric facilities on the Blind River System located at the outlets of Chiblow Lake, Canoe (Scarfe) Lake, and on the Blind River. There are also four water control dams, located at the outlets of Matinenda Lake, Chiblow Lake, Canoe Lake, as well as the Blind River. This WMP will regulate water levels and flows as they are affected by the operation of these waterpower facilities and related structures.

The **goal of water management planning** is to contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the people of Ontario through the sustainable development of waterpower resources and to manage these resources in an ecologically sustainable way for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Water management planning guidelines** have been developed to set out the criteria for WMPs and outline the planning process that must be followed in the preparation of these plans. Copies of these guidelines are available at the MNR office address listed below. This document may also be viewed on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) Registry Number PB01E6004. This public notice will also be posted on the EBR.



You are invited to attend this **open house** to review the draft WMP. Issues, values and concerns that have been identified by the public to date have been included and considered in its development. The open house will be held in Blind River on **October 30, 2003, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** at the Blind River Marina Conference Room. A community information session will also be held at **Mississauga First Nation** on **November 3, 2003 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** If you have additional environmental, social, or economic values or concerns you wish to identify, or wish to comment on the draft WMP, please respond in writing to the address listed below before November 30, 2003.

Comments or opinions will be kept on file for use during the plan operating period and may be included in study documentation, which is made available for public review. Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (1987), personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, this information may be used by the MNR to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects. For further information on this Act, please contact Mr. Tom Mispel-Beyer at 705-949-1231, ext. 288.

If you would like additional information or would like to provide information or viewpoints to be considered by the planning team, please contact:

**Dick Hagman, Area Supervisor**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
62 Queen St., P.O. Box 190  
Blind River, ON P0R 1B0  
Tel: 705-356-2234, ext. 234  
Fax: 705-356-7441  
E-mail: [dick.hagman@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:dick.hagman@mnr.gov.on.ca)

or

**Ray Lipinski, Planning Biologist**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
62 Queen St., P.O. Box 190  
Blind River, ON P0R 1B0  
Tel: 705-356-2234, ext. 232  
Fax: 705-356-7441  
E-mail: [raymond.lipinski@mnr.gov.on.ca](mailto:raymond.lipinski@mnr.gov.on.ca)

Renseignements en français : (705) 356-2234.



# Invitation to Participate

## Water Management Planning for the Blind River System

The **Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)** invites you to participate in development of a water management plan (WMP) for the Blind River System. There are presently three small hydroelectric facilities on the Blind River System located at the outlets of Chiblow Lake, Canoe (Scarfe) Lake, and on the Blind River. There are also four water control dams, located at the outlets of Matinenda Lake, Chiblow Lake, Canoe Lake, as well as the Blind River. This WMP will regulate water levels and flows as they are affected by the operation of these waterpower facilities and related structures.

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If you have concerns, or have environmental, social, or economic value(s) you wish to identify, please respond in writing to the address listed below. **An open house will be held in Blind River on August 8, 2002, from 2-8 p.m. at the Blind River Marina Conference Room.**

Additional consultations will be held at the Mississauga First Nation.

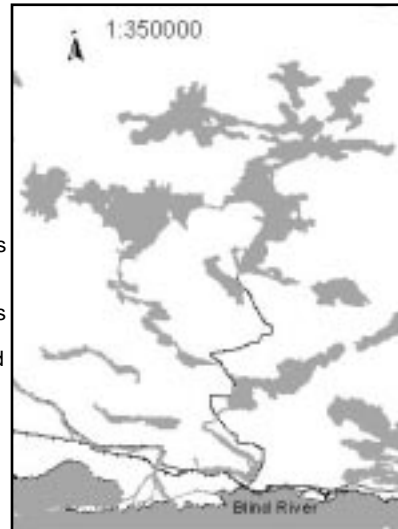
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