



Administration Centre: 400 Clyde Road, P.O. Box 729 Cambridge, ON N1R 5W6

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February 6, 2026

Ministry of Natural Resources  
Aylmer Guelph District

**Attention: Aisha Wiens**  
**Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist**

**RE: Water Management Plan Implementation Report Submission for Shand Dam Generating Station**

Dear Aisha:

This letter and attachments form the Grand River Conservation Authority submission report for the Shand Dam generating site.

The original water management plan was approved in 2005. A copy of the water management plan is included as appendices to this letter as an embedded PDF document object. Double clicking on this object will open a PDF copy of the approved plan.

The original water management plan was referred to as a scoped water management plan. In the MNRF Technical Bulletin Maintaining Water Management Plans MNRF-2016, all three GRCA generating facilities are classified as simplified water management plans. This is consistent with the original recommended site classification and rationale. The following excerpt from the approved Shand Dam water management plans states the following:

### **Recommended Site Classification and Rationale**

The Steering Committee recommends that the Shand Dam Hydropower Facility owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority be classified as a Category "A" Water Management Plan.

Category "A" facilities are those facilities that exert a small amount of control over water levels and flows and are without issues that can be mitigated through a change in the hydro facility operations.

Although the Shand Dam can exert significant control of upstream water levels and discharges, reservoir storage is not manipulated for hydropower production and there are no identifiable issues that could be mitigated through a change in the hydropower facility operations.

The recommended site classification and rationale is the same for all three approved water management plans.

Operation of these hydro plants and the associated dams has not changed. Hydro production at these dams is an auxiliary benefit. Operation of the dam is not dependent on the hydro plant operation nor is the operation of the dam altered to enhance or benefit hydro plant operation. The primary operating objective of these dams is flood management and low flow augmentation. Depending on the time of year, a portion or all the water discharged from these dams is directed through their respective hydro plants. The same water would be discharged regardless of whether the hydro plant existed. The hydro plant simply takes advantage of the required discharge to deliver the auxiliary benefit of hydro production.

The operation of these hydro facilities has not changed. Some equipment upgrades have been implemented in the hydro plants, however these upgrades have not changed the purpose of these plants. Upgrades have improved the efficiency of available discharge to produce hydro.

An endangered species assessment was completed in 2011. MNR staff determined that there are currently no known occurrences of endangered or threatened species, or areas of protected habitat, at or in the immediate area of these facilities. A copy of ministry correspondence is included in an appendix to this letter.

The Grand River Conservation Authority completed an update to the overall water management plan for the Grand River watershed in 2014. Several technical reports were completed as part of this update and may be found at the following web link: <https://www.grandriver.ca/our-watershed/water/water-management-plan/studies-and-reports/> As part of this update, the operation of the reservoir system in the Grand River was documented and an assessment of the reliability of the reservoir system to achieve low flow augmentation objectives was analyzed. This report is included as an appendix to this letter and provides context regarding how the reservoir system is operated to meet downstream low flow objectives. Commentary on downstream ecological flow considerations was also included. This report provides useful context regarding the operation of large multipurpose reservoirs in the Grand River watershed. It would be useful to reference this material in updated water management plans for generating stations at Shand, Conestogo and

Guelph dams. However, it would be important to be clear - water power production does not affect or impact the operating objectives at these dams, hydro power production is simply an auxiliary benefit.

As per the requirements of the implementation reporting, we can confirm that no amendments to the Shand Dam water management plan have been requested; no standing advisory committees exist; and there are no effectiveness monitoring projects or other data collection programs for the Shand Dam generating station WMP for the reporting period between February, 2021 - December, 2025. No updates are anticipated at this time.

Please contact Naomi Moore at this office if you have any questions or require additional information, she may be reached at 519-621-2763 x2293 or by email at [nmoore@grandriver.ca](mailto:nmoore@grandriver.ca). We look forward to working with you and staff at MNR.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katelyn Lynch".

Katelyn Lynch, P. Eng.

Director of Water Infrastructure

Grand River Conservation Authority.

CC: Naomi Moore, GRCA

**Appendix 1: Water Management Plan for Waterpower – Shand Dam**

**Ministry of  
Natural Resources**

Guelph Area Team  
1 Stone Road West  
Guelph, Ontario  
N1G 4Y2

**Ministère des  
Richesses naturelles**

Telephone: (519) 826-4966  
Facsimile: (519) 826-4929



June 23, 2005

Dwight Boyd  
Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road  
Cambridge, Ontario  
N1R 5W6

Re: Signed copies of the Water Management Plans for the Guelph Dam Generating Station,  
Shand Dam Generating Station, and the Conestogo Dam Generating Station

Dear Mr. Boyd,

We are pleased to enclose copies of your approved water management plans for the Guelph Dam Generating Station, the Shand Dam Generating Station, and the Conestogo Dam Generating Stations. Please keep these copies for your files. If you have any questions please contact George Booth at (519) 826-4910.

Sincerely,

Michelle McGill  
Guelph Area Office  
(519) 826-4909

## Appendix 2: Endangered Species Assessment

Ministry of Natural Resources    Ministère des Richesses naturelles  
1 Brent Road West, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor    1, chemin Stone Ouest, 1<sup>er</sup> étage  
Guelph, Ontario N1G 4Y2    Guelph (Ontario) N1G 4Y2  
Fax: (519) 826-4929    Téléc.: (519) 826-4929



March 16, 2011

Grand River Conservation Authority  
400 Clyde Road  
PO Box 729  
Cambridge ON  
N1R 5W6

GU-L-009-11

**RE: Waterpower and the *Endangered Species Act, 2007***

Dear Water Power Facility Operators

The Ministry of Natural Resources has reviewed the species occurrence information on file and in the Natural Heritage Information Centre database available for the water power facilities operated by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The purpose of the review was to assess the potential impacts of the waterpower operations on species at risk and their habitats. The water power facilities we have evaluated are located at Belwood Lake Conservation Area, Town of Fergus, Town of Elora, Comestoga Lake Conservation Area and Guelph Lake Conservation Area.

Based on a review of the available information, Ministry staff have determined that there are currently no known occurrences of endangered or threatened species, or areas of protected habitat, at or in the immediate area of these facilities.

Therefore, the operation of these water power facilities will likely not contravene section 9 (species protection) or section 10 (habitat protection) of the *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA). As a result, we do not presently need to enter into an agreement under Regulation 242/08 of the ESA.

If you become aware of any protected species and/or habitats occurring at or in the immediate vicinity of the facility, please contact the MNR Guelph District office as soon as possible to help determine if the facility's operations could impact the species or its habitat.

It is important to be aware that changes may occur in both species and habitat protection. The ESA applies to species listed in Ontario Regulation 230/08 (Species at Risk in Ontario List) ([www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_080230\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_080230_e.htm)). The Committee on the Status of Species in Ontario (COSSARO) meets regularly to evaluate species for listing and/or re-evaluate species already listed. As a result, species' designations may change, which could in turn change the level of protection they receive.

GRAND RIVER WATERSHED  
Water Management Plan

## Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan

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### Low Flow Reliabilities in Regulated River Reaches in the Grand River Watershed

Prepared by: D. Boyd and S. Shifflett  
May 16, 2016

Grand River Watershed Water Management Plan 2014 Update