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Our Ref: 112248: (EEO/leas/p/Hidro renewable energy - PaperLinx Wesley Vale/c/C01_Assess_Advice)ars

14 October 2011

Mr James Kwok
Hidro+

PO Box 1026
Laloraine TAS 7244

Dear Mr Kwok

RENEWABLE ENERGY FACILITY / 226 MILL RD WESLEY VALE

Assessment Advice

I write to confirm informal advice provided by this office concerning installation by Hidro+ of 1,000MW of renewable generation capacity at the former paper mill site at 226 Mill Road Wesley Vale.

I note that the installation is intended in two stages, namely 100MW (Stage one) followed by 900MW (Stage two). I also note from information previously provided by Hidro+ and Latrobe Council that the project is not likely to present significant pollution or public health risks, that the development at this site is a permitted activity under the local planning scheme, and that it is to be installed within the footprint of the existing industrial complex. I am therefore of the view that the proposal in its current form (for Stage 1 only) will not require assessment in accordance with the environmental impact assessment principles set down in section 74 of the *Environmental Management & Pollution Control Act 1994*. Should Council refer the development application to this office I will advise Council that assessment by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority is not required.

Notwithstanding the above, the large scale and unique nature of the proposed project (particularly Stage 2, for generation of a further 900MW of electricity) may warrant 'call-in' for assessment by the Board of the Environment Protection Authority. As such, I recommend that you submit a new Notice of Intent prior to commencing Stage 2, so that a determination about the need for environmental impact assessment can be made. The Stage one project is expected to provide information to guide the EPA's view on whether 'call-in' is warranted.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please contact the officer nominated at the head of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely

Alex Schaap
DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

cc: Mr Gerald Monson, General Manager, Latrobe Council, PO Box 63 Latrobe Tas 7307