

Belfountain Dam & Head Pond Class Environmental Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions and Key Message Responses

1. What is a Class Environmental Assessment?
 - a. A Class Environmental Assessment is a study and planning process that evaluates the positive and negative impacts of a project before decisions are made about implementation. The Belfountain Dam and Headpond Class Environmental Assessment is being undertaken in accordance with Conservation Ontario's Class Environmental Assessment procedures.
2. Why is this project needed?
 - a. The purpose of this project is to ensure the Belfountain Dam meets regulatory requirements for safety. This project also aims to conserve and enhance natural heritage and cultural heritage values.
3. Who approves this project?
 - a. As part of the Class Environmental Assessment process, all government ministries municipalities are consulted and have the opportunity to comment on the suitability of the project for approval. Ultimately, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has approving authority over this project.
4. How does the Class Environmental Assessment determine the preferred alternative?
 - a. The project will evaluate different ways, or alternatives, to meet the project objectives and achieve the project purpose. The preferred alternative best addresses the project objectives.
5. Will the Belfountain Dam be removed?
 - a. CVC recognizes that the Belfountain Dam is an important feature in the conservation area, both from a cultural heritage perspective and from a visitor experience perspective. This project will evaluate all management options that meet the study objectives and present the preferred alternative for project approval.
6. What is the timeline to implement the preferred alternative?
 - a. A Conservation Ontario Class Environmental Assessment provides for a five (5) year timeframe from project approval to commencing construction.