Note to the secretary of the BCUC,
This had been sent on August 30th to what I believe was the wrong address.
Please let me know if it is admissible...
Arthur

Dear Commissioners,

I thought that this piece might fit DC’s definition on the Point of no Return...
This dam was started in 1905 and stopped in 1913. A cement abutment still exists partly into the river stream.
They ran into money problems and the project was halted.
This is not any different than Site C.
Thanks
Arthur

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/La_Colle_Falls_Hydroelectric_Dam

La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam

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La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam

La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam in 1916

Location of La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam in Saskatchewan

Country Canada

Location

Garden River No. 490 / Prince Albert
No. 491
east of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

Coordinates

G 35°15'27"N
106°30'04"W

Status abandoned
La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam is a partially complete hydroelectric dam built by the City of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. The dam is located on the North Saskatchewan river approximately 45 kilometres east of the city in an area that is inaccessible. 

Construction started in 1909 and the partially complete project was abandoned in 1913 due to high costs and technical difficulties. The motivation of building the dam was to provide cheap power and attract business to the area. 

The partially complete project had cost nearly $3 million and nearly bankrupted the city in the process.

In 2009 a proposal was made to conduct an archeological assessment of the site and propose the site be made a historic site. Prince Albert Tourism was also considering developing a tour to the site using water access. In 2007 an engineering thesis was written outlining how the site could be converted into a spa.

The blunder of Saskatchewan's northern dam, 100 years on

La Colle Falls project nearly drove Prince Albert into bankruptcy

CBC News Posted: Jul 29, 2013 10:11 PM CT Last Updated: Jul 29, 2013 11:22 PM CT

The La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Dam project was abandoned, with one-third of the dam work complete, July 29, 1913 (Courtesy: Paul Van Pul)

An avid history buff is marking the 100th anniversary of the day the plug was pulled on a massive hydroelectric project that was started on the Saskatchewan River, north of Prince Albert, Sask.

What was launched as the La Colle Falls Hydroelectric Development instead became a multi-million dollar monument to lofty ambitions, and a financial millstone for Prince Albert taxpayers for decades to come.

"The dam was one-third finished, into the river," Paul Van Pul, a hydraulic archaeology surveyor who has written extensively on the La Colle blunder, said Tuesday. "They never managed to start building the power station."

According to Van Pul, who checked out the remnants of the project, there are only a few holes in the ground that could have been the start of foundation work for a power plant.

The unfinished dam, however, is a prominent — if odd-looking — feature on the river.
Some have suggested the unfinished La Colle Falls dam should be designated a heritage site (Courtesy: Paul Van Pul)

By the time the project was halted two years of construction work had gone into it and Prince Albert had spent $3 million, or about $62 million in today's terms, adjusting for inflation using a Bank of Canada calculator.

"The project was, in fact, too big for the engineers from Prince Albert," Van Pul believes, when asked how it was that the plan was scrubbed. "They had to depend on the city engineer at the time who had no experience at all building such a big, complicated project."

The city was sold on a hydroelectric dam by the engineer who developed Niagara Falls. That expert, however, rarely checked in on how the La Colle venture was proceeding.

Van Pul said design changes, during construction, also added to the costs.

The burden of loans used to finance a project that was never completed nearly drove Prince Albert into bankruptcy, and it wasn't until 1965 that the debt was paid off.

"P.A. never became the second-largest city of Saskatchewan just because of La Colle Falls," Van Pul believes.

"And the thing is, they almost got there," he added, wistfully.

Van Pul is hoping the concrete structure that remains is designated a heritage site.

"It's a cautious reminder," he said, even as cities embark on large-scale projects today. "Something can go wrong and then we're stuck with it for the next 50 years."