June 2019

Mr. Alar Soever
Town of The Blue Mountains
32 Mill St, P.O. Box 310
Thornbury, ON
N0H 2P0

Notification of TC Energy Cooperation Temporary Access to DND’s 4th Canadian Division Training Centre Meaford

Dear Mr. Soever,

I am writing to inform you that TC Energy Corporation (TC Energy) has approached the Department of National Defence (DND) about a potential hydroelectric pumped storage project (PSP) in Meaford, Ontario. The proposed hydroelectric PSP would consume “off-peak” power at night to pump water from the Georgian Bay into a storage reservoir located on federal lands under the administration and control of DND. Water from the reservoir would be released back into the Georgian Bay during “peak” usage periods, driving hydroelectric turbines to generate 1,000 megawatts of electrical energy.

TC Energy has identified part of the 4th Canadian Division Training Centre (4 CDTC) Meaford property as a possible future location for the proposed hydroelectric PSP. Since 4 CDTC is on federal lands, TC Energy has applied and received a Priority Permit under the Dominion Water Powers Act. A Priority Permit only gives TC Energy the right to be first in the queue to undertake feasibility studies in the area identified. Subsequently, TC Energy has requested temporary access to 4 CDTC to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental studies to determine the feasibility of the site. These studies may include, but are not limited to: a topographic survey, bathymetry survey, geotechnical survey, wildlife and wildlife habitat studies, and vegetation and wetlands studies.

Effective May 21st 2019, DND has provided TC Energy with a one-year Access Agreement, which is subject to limited renewal, to a specific area within 4 CDTC Meaford so they can conduct their studies. Please note that this temporary Access Agreement does not mean that the proposed hydroelectric PSP has been approved to move forward.

If TC Energy expresses continued interest in the property after completing the preliminary feasibility studies, further government review and approvals would be required. DND will continue consultations with Indigenous groups, the Meaford community, and other interested parties. Additionally, DND would conduct its own, departmental-specific reviews to ensure current or future military training and operations
would not be adversely impacted by the proposed PSP. If still deemed feasible after all parties’ interests have been considered, DND would allow TC Energy to undertake a mandatory environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012. This phase of the proposed PSP has the potential to take up to two years and would involve further consultation. The results of the assessment and further consultations would feed into the decision of whether or not to approve the proposed hydroelectric PSP.

Currently, DND is in the preliminary stages of determining if 4 CDTC would be a viable site for the proposed hydroelectric PSP and has made no indication to TC Energy that the proposed hydroelectric PSP has been approved.

DND will continue sharing updates with you as they become available and will provide you with an opportunity to discuss the proposed hydroelectric PSP. DND would like to hear from you should you have any comments, concerns, or questions regarding this proposed hydroelectric PSP. Please provide your feedback by July 19th 2019 to ensure your comments will be considered in the continued planning of this proposed project. Please send your feedback, or any requests for more information about the temporary Access Agreement to Holly King, Section Head, Real Property Services, DND at ThirdPartyAccess@forces.gc.ca or visit DND’s proposed hydroelectric PSP consultation website: https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/consultations-4th-division-hydroelectric-pumped-storage-meaford.html.

For questions about TC Energy’s proposed project, please contact Sara Beasley, Senior Advisor Public Affairs – Canada East, TC Energy at 200 Bay Street, 24th Floor, South Tower, Toronto, ON M5J 2J1, (416) 869-2123 or Sara_beasley@transcanada.com.

Sincerely,

Rob Chambers
Assistant Deputy Minister (Infrastructure and Environment)
Department of National Defence
Proposed energy storage facility.

A proposal to cost-effectively address Ontario’s future energy needs

TC Energy is proposing to develop an energy storage facility that would provide 1,000 megawatts of flexible, clean energy to Ontario’s electricity system using a process known as pumped storage. The proposed facility would be co-located on the existing Canadian Army’s 4th Canadian Division Training Centre, north of Meaford, Ontario. It will be designed to store emission-free energy and would provide energy to Ontarians when they need it most.

The proposed project is a clean, affordable and flexible energy solution that would help meet Ontario’s future energy needs and reduce costs for Ontario ratepayers. A proven, versatile technology, energy storage offers solutions to a number of existing challenges facing Ontario’s electricity system. It would be a reliable resource to maintain the balance between supply and demand and manage the fluctuations caused by the integration of intermittent solar and wind generation.

This diagram is for illustrative purposes only and is subject to change.
Project benefits

- **Ratepayer benefit:** Would reduce costs of electricity for Ontario ratepayers by an estimated $250 million/year, representing billions of savings over the facility life while increasing reliability and reducing future greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Economic impact:** $3 billion private sector investment.
- **Purchase of local goods and services:** Approximately 65 per cent of the $3 billion cost is construction - resulting in significant local labour and supplier opportunities, in addition to the supply of services such as food, accommodation, fuel, hardware, parts, gravel, etc.
- **Job creation:** Over 800 construction jobs over four years in addition to long-term operational jobs and supplier opportunities.
- **Community investment:** Our Build Strong program provides valuable tools and resources to first responders, helps fund educational programs, supports important community needs, and strengthens environmental stewardship and sustainability through local and regional investments. In 2018, TC Energy invested more than $22.5 million in over 1,600 initiatives across 744 communities.
- **Climate benefits:** Stores clean emission free energy and uses it to reduce gas generation from fossil fired facilities, resulting in the reduction of 465,000 tonnes/year in greenhouse gas emissions, which is equivalent to removing about 100,000 cars off the road each year.

Our commitment to the environment

As part of our commitment, and in support of regulatory approvals, a comprehensive environmental assessment will be completed for the project. This will include studies of a wide range of biophysical, social and cultural elements, such as fisheries, wildlife, vegetation, water, archaeology, infrastructure and services, and communities and their economies. The findings from these studies will be used to identify project-specific mitigation and inform detailed project design.

About TC Energy

With more than 65 years' experience, TC Energy is a leader in the responsible development and reliable operation of North American energy infrastructure including natural gas and liquids pipelines, power generation and gas storage facilities. Find out more at TCEnergy.com.

Contact us

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