

Letter from Maureen Isaacs

Open letter to Council re: The TCE Proposed Pumped Storage Project on the Department of National Defence Land, locally known as the "Tank Range".

Dear members of Council, Town of The Blue Mountains:

I wish to express my concerns regarding the proposal by TC Energy to construct a Pumped Storage Plant on the DND lands, modelled on the Ludington, Michigan Plant which is now out of date.

My concerns are:

Destruction of 500 acres of forest and displacement of wildlife. A 375 acre hole cut into the escarpment.

Destruction of the ecosystem close to shore where fish spawn because of the 700 metre shoreline intake along Seagull Bay/Black Point.

Fish being sucked up into the 3 shoreline intake turbines as they pump water 150 metres up the escarpment to a man-made reservoir, 375 acres in size. In spite of screens to protect the fish, millions of fish are still killed at the Ludington Plant. TC Energy has stated that as a mitigation measure, the intake/outfall will be away from the shoreline and tunnels installed beneath the lake are to access deep water to protect the shoreline fish habitat, and inlet/outlet structures are to be raised from the lakebed to avoid aquatic organisms. However, not all fish are bottom dwellers. Different fish dwell at different temperatures, and therefore, will be found at various depths. How will they install tunnels beneath the lake without destroying habitat and creating turbidity?

Turbidity of water as the 23 cubic meters of water are released into Georgian Bay every 24 hours at a rate of 42% of the flow rate of Niagara Falls despite the mitigation measures which TC Energy is suggesting.

Our drinking water is drawn from the Bay down current from the Proposed Project. How will this project affect dug wells and wells along the shoreline?

A new high voltage transmission line corridor from Meaford to Barrie will be required to carry the electricity to the power grid. TC Energy has stated that they will use existing corridors as much as possible. However, if necessary, they will try to "negotiate voluntary agreements" with existing landowners. In the event that no voluntary agreement is reached, then they will resort to "available legislated expropriation procedures".

I realize that the promise of jobs and money being infused into the local economy are tempting. However, our primary industry is tourism and as a taxpayer and cottage owner, I do not want to see anything that might endanger the beauty of Georgian Bay, the jewel of the Great Lakes (in my opinion). I ask that you not support this project which the US no longer allows, as it is destructive to the entire aquatic eco system, in spite of mitigation measures.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely, Maureen Isaacs, Bayview Avenue