



March 24, 2024

MEDIA ADVISORY

****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

ADVOCACY GROUP SEEKS DEFERRAL OF MUNICIPAL SUPPORT FOR TC ENERGY'S CONTROVERSIAL PUMPED STORAGE PROPOSAL

*URGES THE CITY OF OWEN SOUND TO HEAR FROM ALL SIDES AND CONSIDER MORE
COST-EFFECTIVE AND LESS ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING ALTERNATIVES*

MEAFORD, ON: On Monday March 25th, Save Georgian Bay, a grassroots advocacy group committed to stopping TC Energy's planned Pumped Storage Project in Meaford, Ontario, will ask Owen Sound Councillors to defer approval of a proposed Letter of Support for the megaproject until they hear from all sides and consider more cost-effective alternatives—alternatives that could include local indigenous partnerships without threatening such irreversible environmental damage.

Owen Sound Council staff has recommended councillors send a letter of support to TC Energy and Ontario's Energy Minister, Todd Smith, among others. But that staff report relies only on TC Energy's promotional material.

Councillors are now scheduled to hear only from employees of TC Energy, a \$55-billion Alberta-based corporation. But the staff report admits there has been no other external consultation—including with citizens' groups such as Save Georgian Bay, based in neighbouring Meaford.

In the interests of informed decision-making, Save Georgian Bay is asking Council for an opportunity to present its own studies of the project's long-term environmental threats to the Niagara Escarpment and the waters of Georgian Bay.

We are also asking Council to consider two negative reports from the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), which manages Ontario's grid, that have twice concluded the proposal offers no clear economic benefit to provincial ratepayers. In its latest September 29th report to Minister Smith, the IESO applauds a more cost-effective alternative: long-duration battery storage parks such as the Oneida Energy Storage Project currently under construction on 10 acres in Ohsweken, Ontario, and co-owned by the Six Nations of the Grand River.

In May of 2023, the IESO announced that they were offering contracts for seven such battery storage facilities, with five of the seven having at least 50 percent participation from indigenous communities. The battery projects offer a more efficient and sustainable solution to future energy storage needs —and the construction jobs and indigenous partnership that TC Energy is promising without inflicting such lasting damage on the land and waters for generations to come.

When: Monday, March 25th at 5:30 pm

Where: Owen Sound City Hall: 808 2nd Avenue East, Owen Sound

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