



December 6, 2025

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Subject: Urgent Request for Meeting – TC Energy Pumped Storage Project

Dear Premier Ford:

Save Georgian Bay is a grassroots volunteer organization with thousands of supporters, and significant alliances with leading Ontario environmental organizations. We urgently request a meeting with you to discuss the TC Energy Pumped Storage Proposal for Meaford.

Since TC Energy, an Alberta Company, announced its open loop pumped storage proposal in 2019, Save Georgian Bay has studied the proposal with the help of hydro, environmental, geological, and other experts. In 2020, we published a Strategic Environmental Assessment prepared for the Department of National Defence and the 4th Canadian Division Training Base (4CDTC) in Meaford. This report points out major risks of the project and is available on our web site. For six years, we have engaged with the public to raise awareness based on factual data, demanding TCE's claims of "no harm" be held to account. In the meantime, TC Energy's marketing minimizes the risks to the site, the impacts on the habitat and water of Georgian Bay and the costs of the project. Save Georgian Bay wants to see this project cancelled because of its inefficient, harmful, expensive and obsolete approach to energy storage.

Many people around the Bay are concerned that this project continues a path of development boondoggles along the lines of the Greenbelt or the Ontario Skills Development Fund. The Narwhal reported in "*TC Energy executives celebrate 'ground game' for Ontario pumped storage project,*" published July 30, 2024, on TCE lobbying strategies to manipulate political leaders and training TCE employees on "base tactics" the company uses to persuade politicians and members of the public to support their projects. According to Narwhal reporting, a TCE Vice President is recorded on audio bragging about their project approval strategies using casual connections with political leaders, shaping media stories and using Indigenous Leaders as "validators." This leads many citizens around the Bay to believe that approving the project is more about lobbying, financial incentives and shareholder return instead of what is best for ratepayers, energy needs, project efficiency, cost and the damage it would do to the environment. There are serious concerns on many levels but particularly on the highly probable damage to the popular Georgian Bay environment and costs to Ontario ratepayers for old technology.

Our online petition opposing this proposal has over 40,000 signatures and our door-to-door petitions number over 5,000 residents around Georgian Bay. Our education efforts have contributed to six municipalities around Georgian Bay, either opposing the project outright or demanding independent studies of the project and its impacts. Our efforts earned the attention of Ontario Nature which awarded Save Georgian Bay its 2024 Corporate Award for Conservation.

There is not enough known about this non-competitive project and its risks without independent studies of the environmental impact, cost, safety concerns and ultimately the detailed design and operation plan for it to be considered for advancement. This project should not be advanced.

**Why The Proposed Pumped Storage Project (PSP) Must Be Stopped:**

- **Active and Contaminated Military Base:** The proposed site is on an active military base and TCE's proposed development cannot avoid creating major disruption to military operations. The 4th Canadian Division Training Centre (4CDTC) is on the Escarpment and has been operating for active fire training since World War II with significant documented contamination and no cleanup plan. Construction on the land and in the water risks spreading contaminants throughout Georgian Bay.



- **Environmental Risk for Ontario and the Great Lakes:** Contaminants released into Georgian Bay risk flowing into the Great Lakes water shed, impacting millions of people and ecosystems. Despite claiming transparency, TC Energy has not published their detailed design, construction plan, latest cost estimates, geological or environmental studies, leaving the public and decision-makers without critical information.
- **Species at risk:** Thirty-five Species at Risk (SARs) are known to have habitats on the base, many of them in the area proposed for construction. In addition, there would be significant fish kill associated with the open loop design of the project.
- **TCE's cost estimates have ballooned from \$2.3 billion to over \$7 billion:** TCE's latest number is over two-years old. Our experts are now estimating the project would cost over \$10 billion. This does not include refurbishment costs during the lifetime of the project. Refurbishment costs for the model project in Ludington, Michigan were multiples of the original cost of the project. No one knows the ultimate cost of this project. The burden on ratepayers and taxpayers is extreme. This project was rejected at least twice by Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) for providing no economic value to Ontario ratepayers.
- **Karst Topography – Structural Instability:** The proposed site sits on karst topography, a geological formation of soft limestone prone to sinkholes and fractures. This is a very different base than the model project in Ludington, Michigan. This makes large-scale excavation and massive water storage inherently dangerous for the 4 CDTC and the over 300 homes and farms with 1,000 residents living nearby and below the proposed reservoir. Their safety, well-being and property values are at risk. In the Ludington model project, very few people live below the reservoir. Similar projects have had dam breaks and leaks.
- **Regional Opposition:** Six municipalities around Georgian Bay have passed resolutions opposing this project. The population at risk touching the Georgian Bay watershed is estimated at 300,000. Georgian Bay is unique and special. Damage to Georgian Bay will create an uproar.
- **Inefficient, Old Technology:** Open loop pumped storage is outdated technology under the best of circumstances. It would require over 1,400 MGW to fill the reservoir and produce only 1,000 MGW, 67% efficiency at best. Contemporary technologies for energy storage, on the grid, can provide 1,000 MGW requiring only 1,100 MGW, a 92% efficiency, with advances in performance year by year. This reflects a loss of only 8% for this storage solution to work. The costs of contemporary energy storage solutions are decreasing. The costs of hydro solutions are increasing. This is not an effective solution for Ontario power storage, for Ontario's ratepayers.

#### **Our Request**

We ask for a meeting before the end of December to present these concerns and urge your government to halt this project immediately. Premier Ford, your government must not advance this proposal for outdated technology, from an Alberta corporation with a poor safety record on a site that takes away from military effectiveness and is seriously contaminated. We urge you to act now to protect Georgian Bay, Ontario's natural heritage, the Great Lakes watershed, Ontario ratepayers and taxpayers and the many voters and citizens who live, farm and work around the Bay. We request notice of a date for this meeting at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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