

# COACHING and DEMONSTRATIONS

Using the Impact Assessment Agency Canada (IAAC) website  
to submit comment on TCE PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT

6pm – 7:45pm

Presented by Paul Young

# Meaford Library Information & Training Sessions

“How to Learn More about the TCE Pumped Storage Project Assessment Process & Have Your Inputs Heard

1. Brief review of the Impact Assessment Process for the TCE Pumped Storage Project (and how to get more info from the IAAC website)
2. Why does IAAC want to hear from you **before April 6, 2026?**

By participating in their process, you can:

- ensure that an Impact Assessment actually takes place
- communicate issues that are important to you
- help IAAC understand the community in which the proposed project would take place
- help IAAC identify the potential impacts of the proposed project in the early stages of an assessment – so that IAAC investigates the most important impacts of the project during the later phases
- influence decisions about the project to mitigate impacts **including the investigation of alternative solutions**

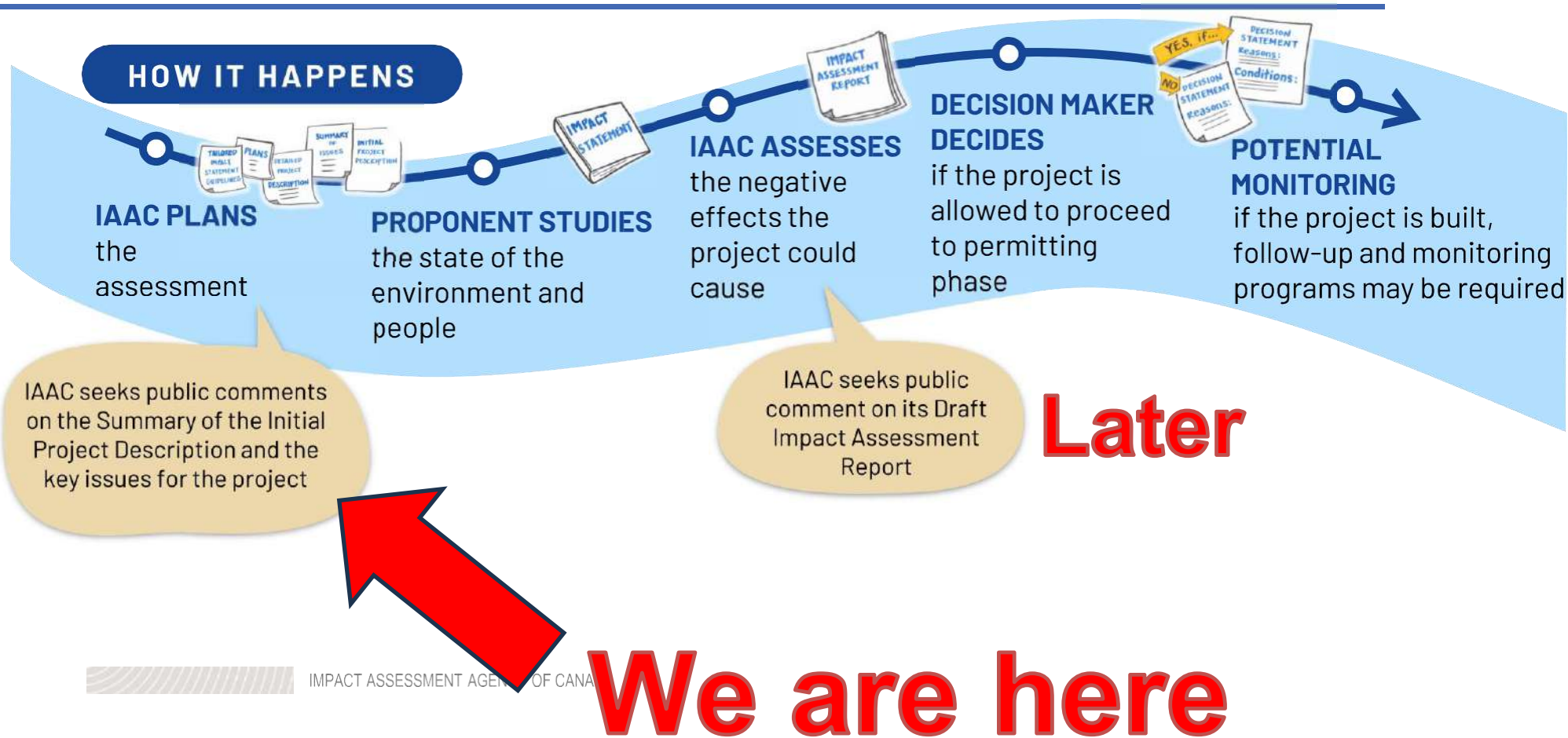
3) Some examples of impacts to help you create your submissions

4) Live demo of how to find and use the IAAC website – including submitting comments and concerns

## What is an Impact Assessment?

- A process that the federal government uses to make decisions on major development projects in Canada
- Looks at potential positive and negative effects of proposed projects
- Uses information and evidence from multiple sources (project proponent TCE), scientific experts, Indigenous Peoples, the public, etc.)
- Identifies ways to mitigate potential harm and enhance positive impacts, including option to recommend rejection or alternative solutions

# Impact Assessment Process



# Why Do I care?

Typical problems that occur arising from large infrastructure Projects in rural communities:

- 1. Inflation and Cost of Living** - prices rise due to higher paid workers
- 2. Temporary Job Market Distortion** – loss of staff to TCE
- 3. Transportation Overload/Roads Damage** – 1000's of truck trips
- 4. Utilities and Public Services** – water use rises, schools overcrowded
- 5. Policing and Security Concerns** – alcohol, substance abuse, sex-trade workers
- 6. Increased Crime Rates** – vandalism, theft
- 7. Social Services Impact** – food security, homelessness due to #1
- 8. Healthcare and Emergency Services** – wait times at Hospital
- 9. Shortage of Affordable Housing** – 1500 workers, evictions to achieve higher rents
- 10. Overcrowded Living Conditions** – rental sharing
- 11. Accidents, Disasters & Terrorism** – see following slide (Failures)
- 12. Increased Pollution** – see following slide (Water & Contamination)
- 13. Loss of Community Identity, Real-estate value, Quality of Life** - see following slide (Construction)
- 14. Huge increases in electricity costs** – paid by us, alternatives are 7x cheaper, ~zero ecology impacts

# My Fears

1. **Structural collapse of giant reservoir wiping out 300+ homes**

## How big is this project?



### **USS Nimitz:**

– worlds largest aircraft carrier



**Reservoir Water weight = 280 Nimitz carriers – each day**



## Sitting on this kind of rock?



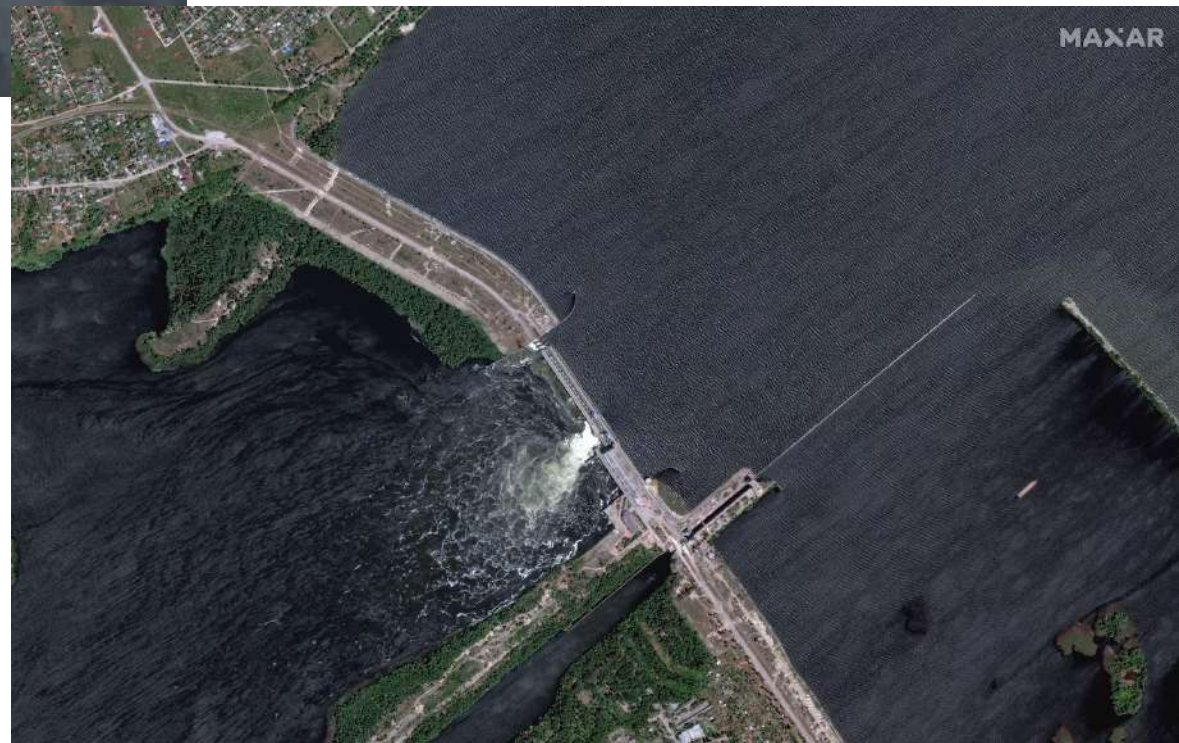
**What could wrong..... ?**

# Reservoir Catastrophic Failure

Taum Sauk Ring Dam Failure, Dec. 14, 2005



## 2 Dams in Ukraine blown open



# My Fears

1. **Structural collapse of giant reservoir wiping out 300+ homes**
2. **Contamination of drinking water and soil**

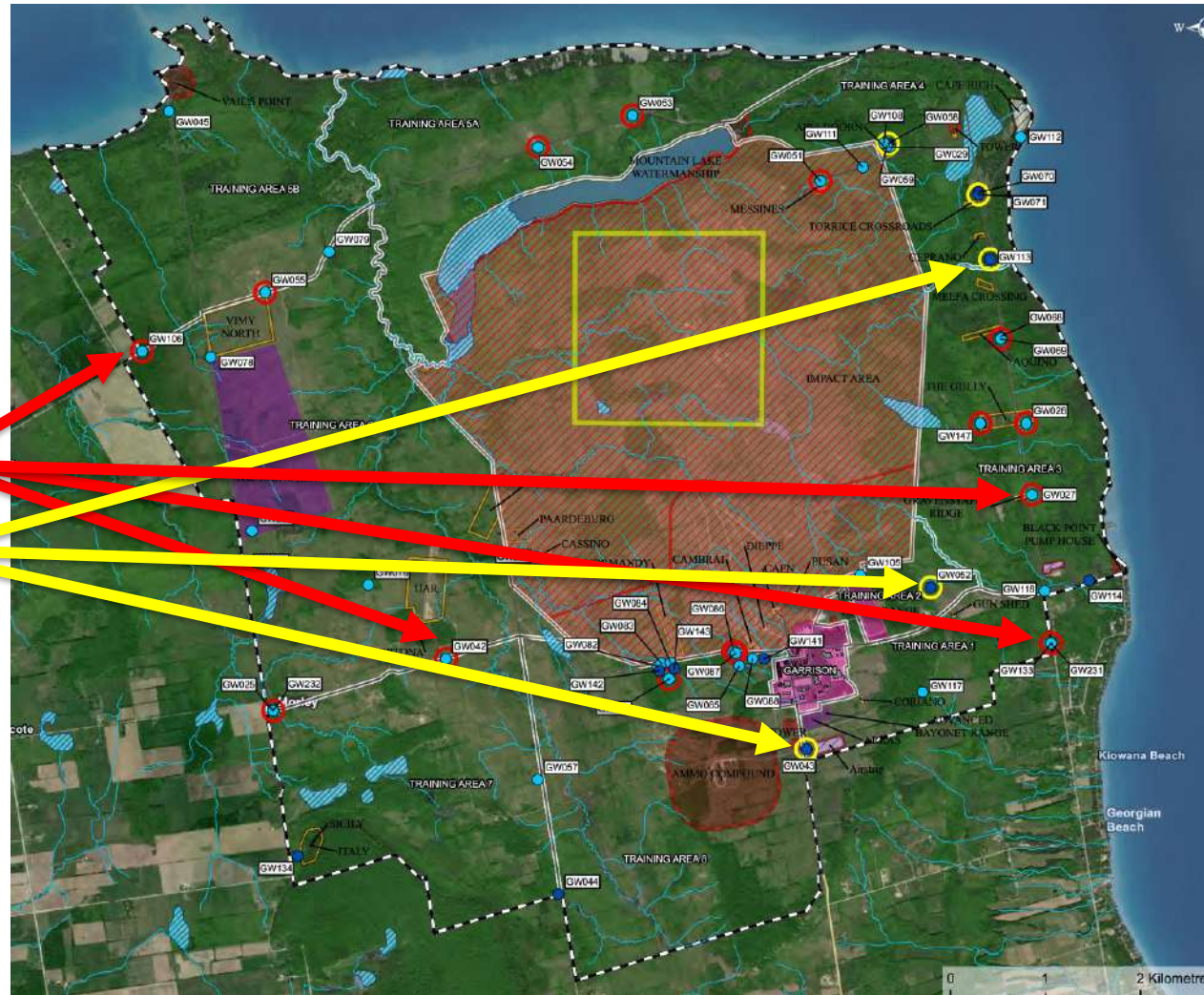
# Contamination found on the base:

- 10+ years of sub-contracted testing by DND:
  - Shallow well water sampling
  - Deep well water sampling
  - 2009 Soil sampling by Defence R&D
  - Surface Water & Ground Water flow maps

○ Shallow wells exceed Threshold Value

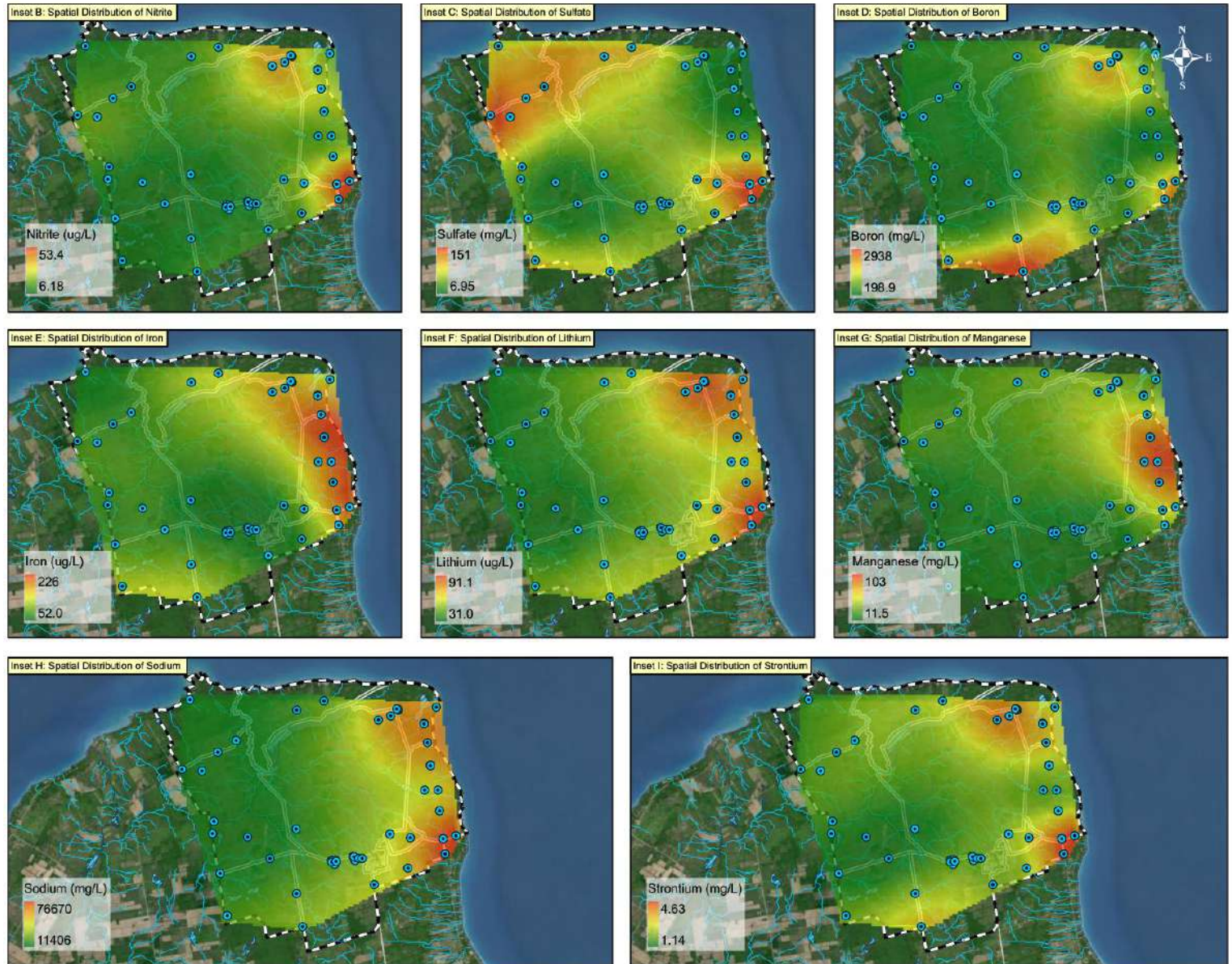
○ Deep wells exceed Threshold Value

- Of 44 wells sampled – **38 wells** had levels of dissolved metals exceeding 1 or more Federal, Provincial, site limits (testing by ICP/MS)

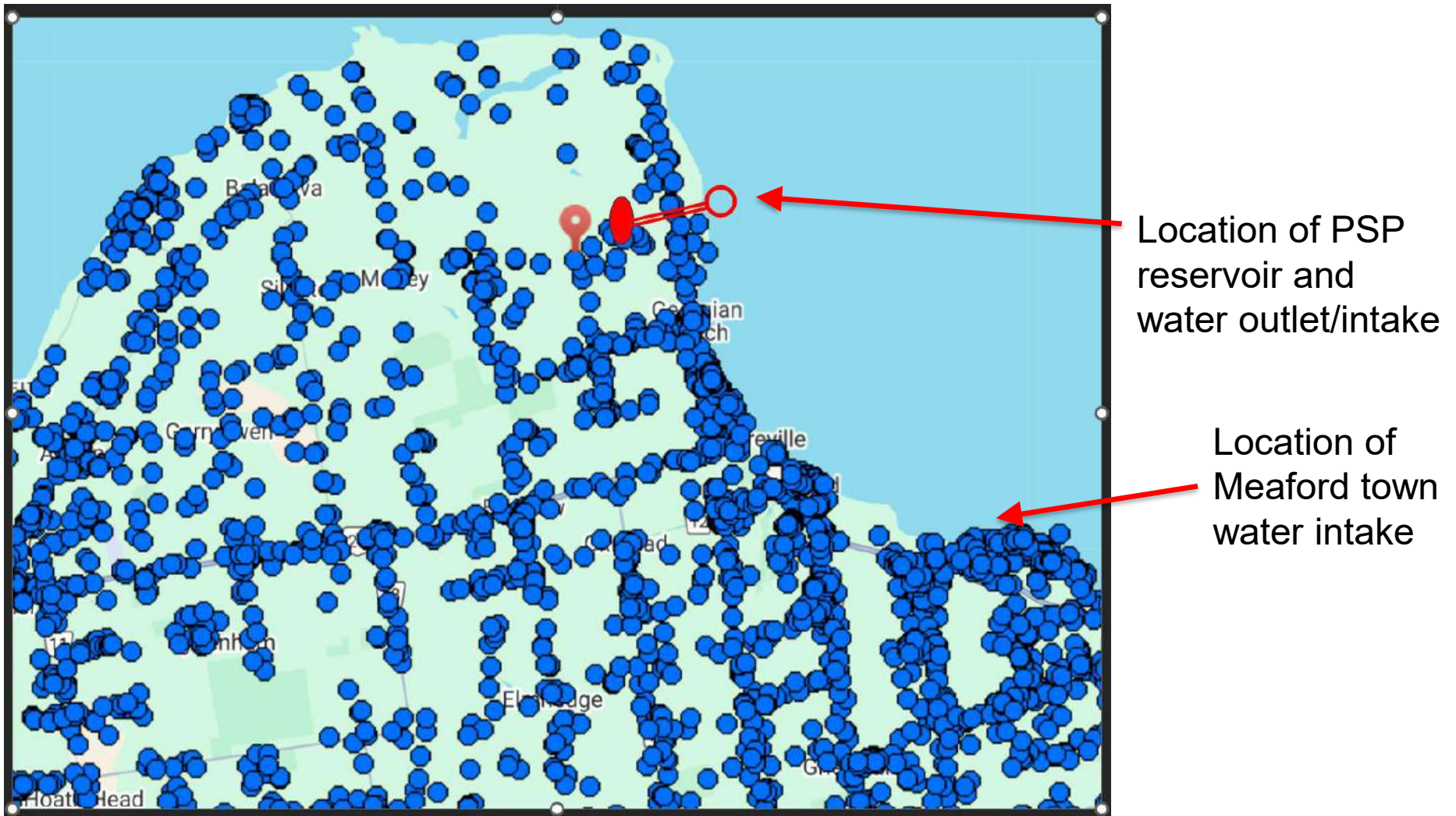


# Where have contaminants been moving?

Spatial distributions of 8 of the contaminants



# Where do we get our water? From wells!



**Ontario Well Map**

# My Fears

1. **Structural collapse of giant reservoir wiping out 300+ homes**
2. **Contamination of drinking water and soil**
3. **Destruction of Real-estate value & Quality of Life**

# Quality of Meaford Life / Loss of real-estate value



Digging the hole will excavate:  
**73.6 Million tons of dirt and rock**

Relocating this material off the base could take:  
**3.4 Million truck loads**  
(~283 trips per hour for 3 years)  
.....driving through our community?



# My Fears

- 1. Structural collapse of giant reservoir wiping out 300+ homes**
- 2. Contamination of drinking water and soil**
- 3. Destruction of Real-estate value & Quality of Life**
- 4. 20% to 70% higher electric bills – to pay \$7B loan interest for \$ Ford is giving to TCE**

# How to provide meaningful comments

Most Helpful



"I'm concerned the project will impact Rainbow trout in Apollo Creek"



\* Specific Concern  
\* Specific Request



"I want to learn more about how many full-time jobs the project will bring to my community"



"This project is very bad for fish in the area"

Least Helpful



"I support this project! It should move ahead immediately"



General opinion with no details or request

\* Comments with derogatory language or profanity are **not** accepted

## Examples - How to Write Your Comment

1. Name your **CONCERN** – i.e. “water contamination in bay killing fish”
2. Name **WHY** – i.e “water will flow from DND Base to bay with every rain, carrying disturbed DND Base soil with attached contamination”. Provide info if you have it.
3. Name your **REQUEST** – i.e. “solve the energy demand without digging a big hole in contaminated soil”
4. Call-out what you see as “**piecemealing**”. This is really 4 big projects to be assessed at once:
  - 1) DND base re-construction, 2) Building a cement plant,
  - 3) Building the Pumped Storage, 4) Building a transmission line corridor

# HOW TO FIND STUFF on IAAC WEBSITE

Main web page link (all IAAC stuff) <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/index>

How to sign up for auto emails of projects under review

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/notifications/preferences>

Select the PSP #89803 to only get those e-mails.

General Comment input page – instructions and project links

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/comment>

Ontario Pumped Storage comments input

[Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project - 89803](#)

Links to Summary and Full Project description to date (incomplete as admitted by TCE)

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/165304>

<https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/162726>