

Presentation to Ontario Energy Board

Tuesday April 1, 2014 Timmins

Introduction:

My name is Ambrose Raftis I work with a group called Timiskaming Environmental Action Committee. I am here to represent many of those concerned about our environment, our future and our economy in the North. I would like to thank the OEB for taking the time to listen to the citizens of Ontario.

The main reason for not supporting this pipeline conversion is because it downloads the environmental and economic cost to our children and grandchildren and this I find morally repulsive. However I am not going to talk about that, I will leave that to the **UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that details the increasingly cold winters, hot summers with more storms and floods that future generations will have to deal with.**

The Ontario Energy Board should recommend to the Ontario government the halting of the conversion of the existing gas to an oil line because:

- There is no evidence it can be done safely and much evidence to the contrary.
- There is no benefit to Ontario energy users thus the risks far out way any potential gains
- We don't need this energy system. There is no energy demand that can't be met with less long term damage
- There is inadequate regulatory control

The Project cannot be Done Safely

There is no evidence that a pipeline originally installed with 1960's with tar based coatings could carry crude oil without significant leakage. Even the newer tape coat technology used by TransCanada to move gas has had many leaks. The map of 1047 pipeline accidental leaks shows as a line across the province some of them with millions of litres of gas lost. Oil leaks in a pipe line are a much, much larger problem.

In one sector of my career I worked for a Corrosion Engineering Company that had contracts with Trans Canada to survey the corrosion rate of their pipelines across the province and produce engineering recommendation. We also surveyed the corrosion rate of underground gas and oil storage tanks. Over time it became obvious the tar type coating used on tanks and early pipelines had limited life span and after a decade the coating coverage was so ineffective that cathodic protection was ineffective at halting corrosion. Eventually all of the fuel tanks were removed but not without creating thousands of

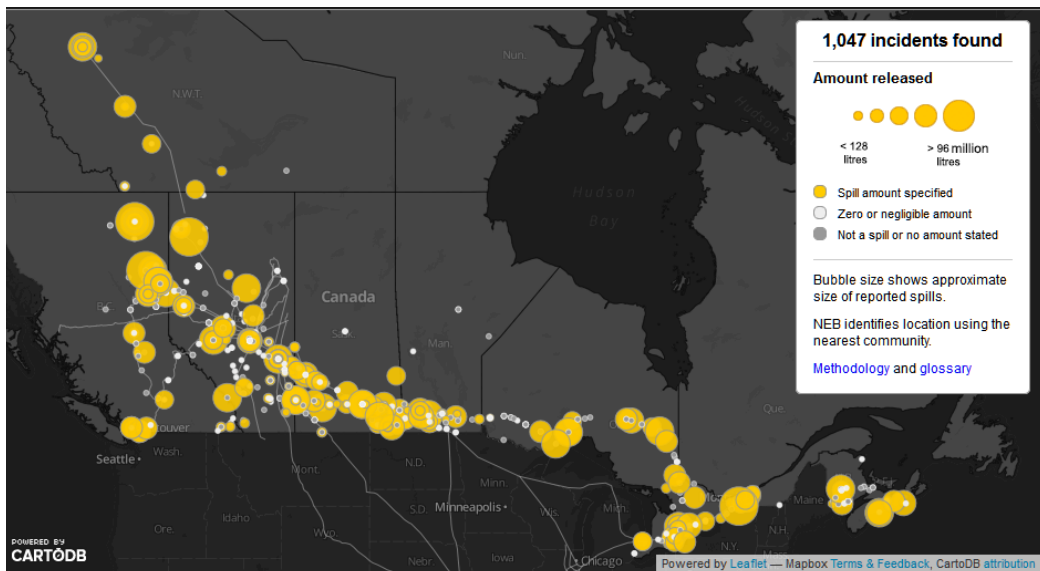
environmental brown field many of which remained un rehabilitated. The 53 year old third line that Trans Canada has uses a similar tar coating and could not be protected from further corrosion. Unless excavated and recoated we can only expect continued corrosion and leakage.

There is no benefit to Ontario energy users in this proposal: resulting in the risks far out way any potential gains

When gas line leak the gas is burned off, there is little environmental cleanup needed. When an oil pipeline leaks the spill could go on for months or years dispensing oil with a variety of volatile levels into the air, soil and water table. We have learned that crude oil is difficult or impossible to clean up. With oil spills, high level volatiles are driven off potentially exploding as occurred in Lac Megantic contaminating the air, and the heavy volatiles contaminate the land and water table. Cross country pipelines travel in both remote and in urban areas through towns and cities across the province. In every one of these communities people will be taking on the risk of becoming another Lac Megantic except instead of there being a few dozen isolated train cars there is a 30 km long pipeline full of mixed crude with no way of halting the flow until the pipeline drains out from the upstream valve.

There is no way of protecting Ontario communities against financial disaster in the event of a leak. Like the company that ran the trains that created the accident in Lac Megantic, companies can limit their liability through bankruptcies, or through limited partnerships like many mining companies have done in the north. Trans Canada could simply form a limited partnership that restricted their liability. Their shareholders make the profits and are not responsible in the event of an accident. When disaster occurred the holding company could go bankrupt leaving the liability to the tax payers or individual in the path of the disaster.

Why should we put nearly every community in the province at risk so that a foreign owned oil company (who can pay nothing in taxes) can pump out oil across the country to feed their markets? This is taking the hewers of wood and drawers of water to a whole new level of stupidity.



The pipeline leaks history follows the route of the Trans Canada Pipeline across the Province

We don't need this energy system! There is No Energy Demand that can't be met with energy systems that have less Long Term Damage

The oil industry in Canada is not living up to their environment responsibilities. They are releasing hydrocarbons into the environment around the tar sands, consuming large amounts of natural gas and spilling carbon dioxide with no plan to reduce or eliminate it.

Every hour of the day there is enough energy hits the earth to supply all of the world's energy needs for a year. We do not need an expanded oil industry we have the technology to build safe, non-polluting and renewable energy systems here in our own communities. We are being asked to take on big risks for an industry that continues to act irresponsibly toward the environment and the next generation.

Ontario is strategically positioned with its wind, solar hydroelectric and biomass to become its own energy producers. We don't need imported dirty oil, we need better energy leadership. When Ontario creates its own energy it would retain billions of dollars in the province that would allow our kids, presently living in bunk houses in Alberta, to come home and live in their own communities with their families around them.

There is No Adequate Monitoring and Regulative Regime

Adequate monitoring and a regulative regime are not in place in Ontario to protect the interests of Ontario residents. The OEB mandate speaks to the regulation of the gas and electrical market. An oil pipeline appears to be somewhat beyond its existing mandate and therefore beyond regulatory control. Oil transmission through a gas pipeline falls between existing regulatory. Before any changes are made, adequate protections need to be in place. This should be in the form of new government regulatory responsibly, that require financial liability assurance for extensive land and watershed clean up, environmental monitoring and regulation similar to Ontario now does with new mines. As shown in the Lac Megantic case these assurances do not exist and citizens are at risk. Companies make the profit and mess and taxpayers die and pay for cleanup. We don't want communities in Ontario looking like Northern Alberta or Lac Megantic!

Conclusion:

The oil era is over. We do not need it anymore and we need to move on to more sustainable energy sources before the environmental degradation and climate collapse makes it impossible to make these changes. Stopping the transmission of damaging crude oil across the province is the only responsible action that can be taken. We would like the OMB to advise the Ontario government to oppose the conversion of the old gas line to an oil pipeline. If they can't - for constitutional reasons - oppose it outright, we would like them exercise full provincial responsibilities for the environment by doing a full regulatory review, including designating the project for a full environmental assessment, include all permitting and review requirements in a comprehensive environmental assessment that includes cumulative and trans-boundary impacts. We owe at least this much to our children and grandchildren.

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