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Nipissing Environmental Watch

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For the Ontario Energy Board Energy East Consultation

The drinking water of my community is threatened with risks too high to take. The Energy East Pipeline by Transcanada should not be permitted to run through 38 km of the Trout Lake Watershed that is the sole water source for tens of thousands of people in and around North Bay. We'd like to see these risks addressed.

First, will this conversion create a hefty increase in cost for consumers? An investigation has to be conducted, to determine whether or not the line in question as being underutilized. How was this line labeled underutilized? We've already seen a 40% increase levied on consumers this year. How will the pipeline conversion affect the price of natural gas? How will folks on fixed and low incomes levels afford to heat their homes with increases like this?

Secondly, we are very concerned about the environmental impacts of a potential pipeline failure. In 2012, there was a major spill of formaldehyde adjacent to

North Bay's water intake. It revealed a number of deficiencies in our emergency management procedures. North Bay is not at all equipped to handle a pipeline eruption of crude. People increasingly seek to relocate to places like North Bay with our calm natural environment. It is one of the best draws we have for people to settle here. One crude oil spill could change all that. So in what ways would North Bay's emergency response capabilities be enhanced and improved by Transcanada? How would the procedures and safety practices Transcanada has used in the past, be changed to better safeguard against pipeline failures and restore people's homes and the natural environment assets?

Thirdly, the sociological impact of a pipeline failure would result in a collective loss of well-being in our community. A bright light in our community's economy--High Yield Anglers, bring well over a million dollars in revenue to the area that is expected to grow (Ontario, 2013). All the tourism operators in our surrounding area would also be deeply affected by the spill. There is also risk to the recreational trails in the forests along the pipeline that keep people in mental and physical fitness. What is Transcanada prepared to do to compensate people who could lose their livelihoods and recreational opportunities in the event of a crude oil eruption?

Fourthly, the impact of losing our drinking water from Trout Lake cannot be understated. After a crude oil/dilbit spill, Trout Lake will likely never be clean again, as past experience has shown in many other places. People could lose confidence in the safety of our water. There could be persistent toxins lurking in our water. Trout Lake has an estimated flushing rate of 7.7 years. This raises questions that need scientific answers: how will dilbit flow with the water currents in Delaney Bay? Will it be towards North Bay's drinking water? The flow direction of water currents in Trout Lake depicted in a Transcanada Pipeline Energy East Stantec Calgary map contradicts local studies by regulatory agencies. Reference to the real flow pattern can be found in the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority Integrated Watershed Management Strategy. (367-381, specifically page 381). A quote from the study, "In 1987 most of the water (62.7%) entering Turtle Lake came from Trout Lake and this is despite several months where water flowed in reverse from Turtle Lake into Trout Lake-the net effect from City water takings".

There are deeper currents which must be measured with bobbers and sinkers. The surface flow would be in a southwesterly direction a majority of the time so the surface toxins will flow toward the drinking water intake. Please refer to the

graph on wind direction—SW a majority of the year. This data is available in Transcanada's application for a pump house in North Bay circa 1991, 1992.

Why this matters is because a spill will happen seemingly far away from the Delaney Bay water intake but wind patterns and flow patterns will have dilbit travelling to our water intake and contaminating our water.

With the possibility of a spill of 1.1 million barrels poisoning Trout Lake over a 24-hr period, another high-risk point is behind our ski club. There lays the pipeline. Due to gravity, seeping dilbit has a direct path straight down hill, via old logging shoots right into Delaney Bay, meters from the water intake. There are 6 swift-flowing streams off the escarpment.

Another important contamination hot spot is Four mile creek. It refreshes Trout Lake and is a fish sanctuary as it enters the lake.

We reiterate the recommendation in the North Bay Mattawa Conservation Authority Integrated Watershed Management Strategy that The Trout Lake Source Water Protection Plan should extend from a 1 km protection zone for the intake pipe, to the greater contributing area.

After the tragedy of contaminated water in Walkerton, Justice O'Connor called for Source Protection Committees to oversee our water. The provincial government has spent a substantial amount of money on this process. Hundreds of people are now responsible for protecting our water at this time--all of these people are held to a statutory standard of care.

We ask how C-38 is lawful, stomping on the strict provincial laws protecting our drinking water. We call on Premier Wynne to stand up to the federal government and take back the protection of our source water.

Further, will Ontario designate the Energy East project for a full environmental assessment under Ontario's Environmental Assessment Act?

Ontario needs to be at the NEB table.

In 2010, the United Nations recognized the right to clean, safe drinking water. We all have the right to life in Canada. It is in the federal Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms under Legal Rights. Our water is our life. Ontario must stand up for its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.