

Energy East Pipeline: For Export, not Domestic Gain

Table 1
Refinery Capacity on Energy East's Path⁷

Refinery	Capacity (barrels per day)
Suncor	137,000
Valero	235,000 ⁸
Irving	300,000
Total	672,000

Good evening,

I want to start by thank the Minister of Energy for providing this opportunity to collect Ontarians views on the Energy East pipeline, what would be the largest oil pipeline in North America.

I am the Energy and Climate Justice Campaigner with the Council of Canadians. We are a national organization that works in the areas of democracy, water, trade, healthcare and energy. We are sustained by over 75 000 supporters, we work with close to 70 volunteer chapters across the country, including six directly impacted by the Energy East route.

We firmly believe there are many risks and few benefits for Ontarians from this pipeline. We believe these risks are sufficient for the province to take a strong position against the project.

Export

The Council of Canadians alongside 3 environmental organizations recently released a report questioning proposed benefits of a stronger oil refining industry and greater energy independence.

The report looked at available capacity of the 3 refineries along the route and compared it to the sources available and soon to be available to these refineries which you can see here [power point slide featuring graphs in this report <http://www.canadians.org/publications/transcanada%E2%80%99s-energy-east->

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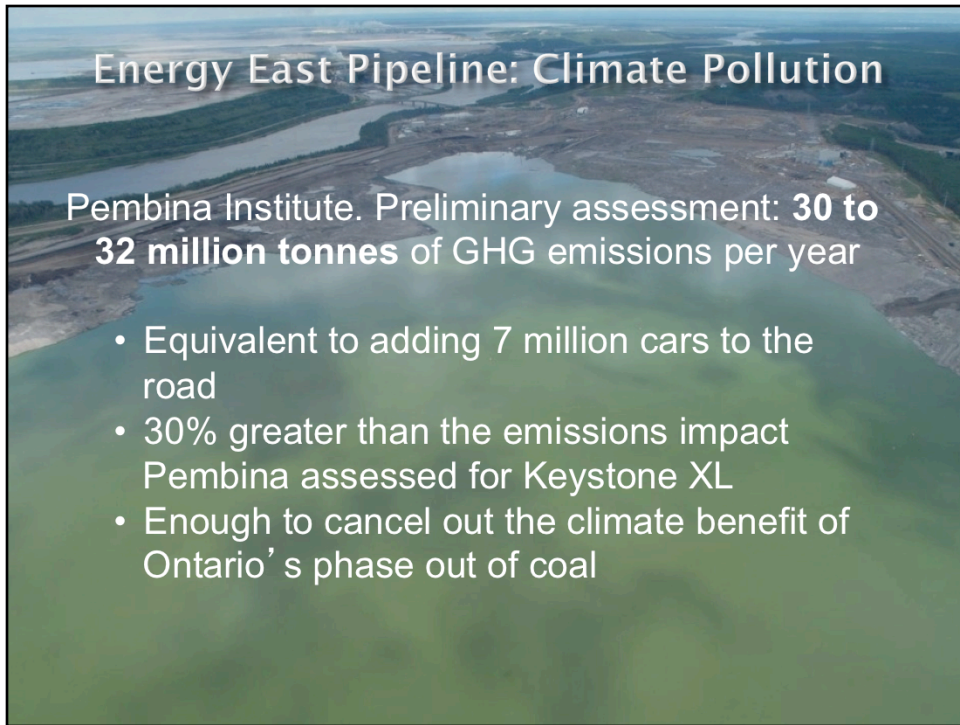
Table 2
Projected Crude Oil Supply on Energy East's Path in 2020[†]

Eastern Supply Sources of Crude	Amount (barrels per day)
Enbridge's Line 9	250,000
Atlantic Canada offshore ⁹	100,000 ¹⁰
U.S. Crude by tanker and rail ¹¹	200,000
Total	550,000

The conclusion is that the vast majority of the oil transport, between an estimated 750,000 to 1 million barrels per day would likely be exported, unrefined.

This conclusion is supported by recent comments made in the media by Enbridge and the a spokes person of the Valero refinery regarding Quebec refineries capacity.

Meanwhile provinces and communities along the route bear the impacts.



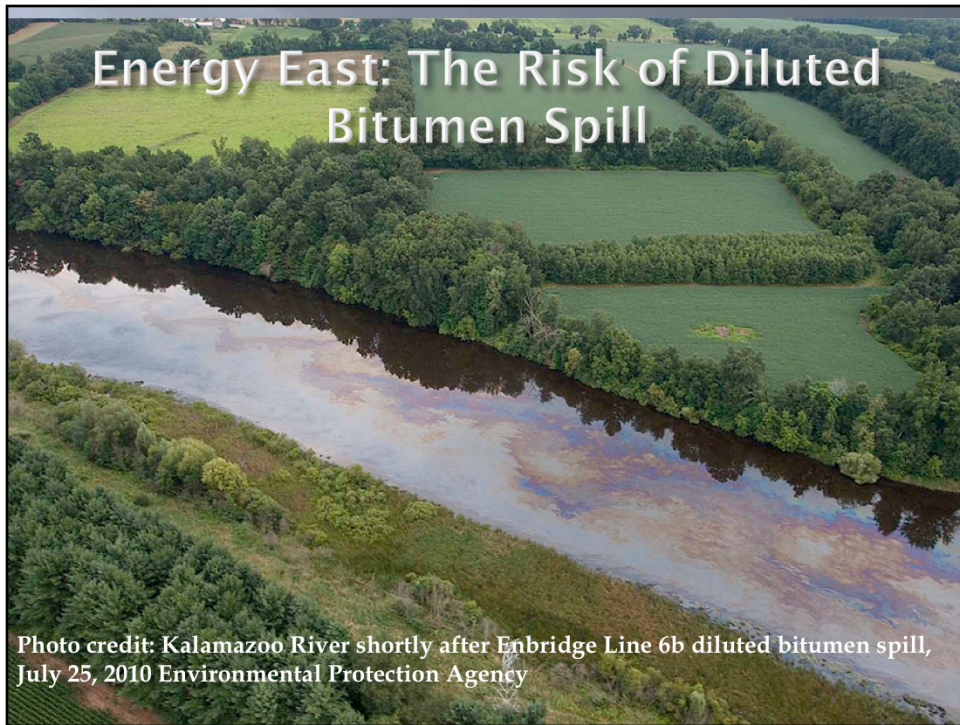
Climate risks:

At a time when we are warned that two thirds of all fossil fuels need to stay in the ground to avoid the worst of climate change, infrastructure contributing as much climate pollution as this pipeline would, is a concern to us all. For our generation, for my son's generation and all future generations.

According to a report by the Pembina Institute, filling Energy East would produce 30 to 32 million tonnes of climate pollution every year.

This would literally undo the good done by Ontario's phase out of coal and by our electricity policy.

Upstream impacts should be a priority in examining the implications of this pipeline, both with the OEB, and as a message the Ontario government brings to the NEB.



Diluted bitumen:

Energy East would carry diluted bitumen or “dilbit”, created by diluting thick, bitumen from the tar sands with various chemicals to make it thin enough to transport by pipeline.

Massive pipeline ruptures in Mayflower Arkansas in 2012 and Kalamazoo Michigan in 2010 show how difficult it is to clean up dilbit because it sinks in water and is very sticky.

In Cornwall, from the maps we’ve seen, it looks like the new portion of the Energy East pipeline may be as close as 2km to the St Lawrence. While we need a better understand the risks here, a large spill could enter groundwater and we should better understand the risk to the St Lawrence, including Cornwall’s drinking water source intake.

Council of Canadians Energy East: Our Risk – Their Reward

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We are concerned about increased reliance on imported fracked gas from the U.S.

We are also concerned about how the conversion of this pipeline will impact the supply of natural gas in Ontario. In particular, we are concerned about growing dependence on fracked gas imports from the U.S. Marcellus shale.

We have brought evidence before to the Ontario Energy Board previously regarding how environmentally and socially damaging this gas is, and the likelihood it will be subject to increasingly punitive regulations, making this gas less available and more expensive. It also means the gas used in Ontario has a much higher carbon footprint.

We don't believe the report commissioned by the OEB effectively evaluates this risk.

Finally we are concerned about the federal regulation of this pipeline.

The Harper government has gutted environmental regulations in this country. It has left resource project decisions to the National Energy Board and has simultaneously made participating in this process incredibly difficult for people.

It is up to people like us to be informed and active, to participate in spaces like this, and raise our concerns. Doing so, we firmly believe the right choice is to stop the Energy East pipeline.

Thank you for the opportunity to share, I look forward to our discussion.