



Good evening. As you know, the proposed Energy East Project goes through North Grenville. I am speaking on behalf of Sustainable North Grenville, which has been supporting green development in our town since our inception four years ago. We're sure other speakers have raised concerns about national policy and the absurdity of spending billions on infrastructure to support fossil fuels at a time when we should be looking for alternatives – I add that this is made clearer following the last IPCC report.

In this presentation, we will focus on some local concerns that have led hundreds of citizens of North Grenville to sign a petition objecting to this project. North Grenville is a small and generally conservative community, so when hundreds of people put their names on a petition, you know there is serious concern.

Three Issues

- Physical Safety
- Rideau River & Canal
- Drinking water

Three issues are paramount: rail and pipeline safety, preserving the Rideau River, and our drinking water.

First, safety. In the past year there has been a huge increase in the number of tank cars going through North Grenville. As anyone who has followed the news knows, there are big safety issues with rail carriage of crude oil.

However, the New Brunswick refiners say that even if the Energy East project is approved, they intend to **continue** using rail. We won't have a pipeline **instead of** tank cars, we will have a pipeline **in addition to** tank cars. Instead of one safety problem, we'll have two.

Actually, we'll have a natural gas pipeline and a crude oil pipeline, side by side. And that significantly increases our safety problem.

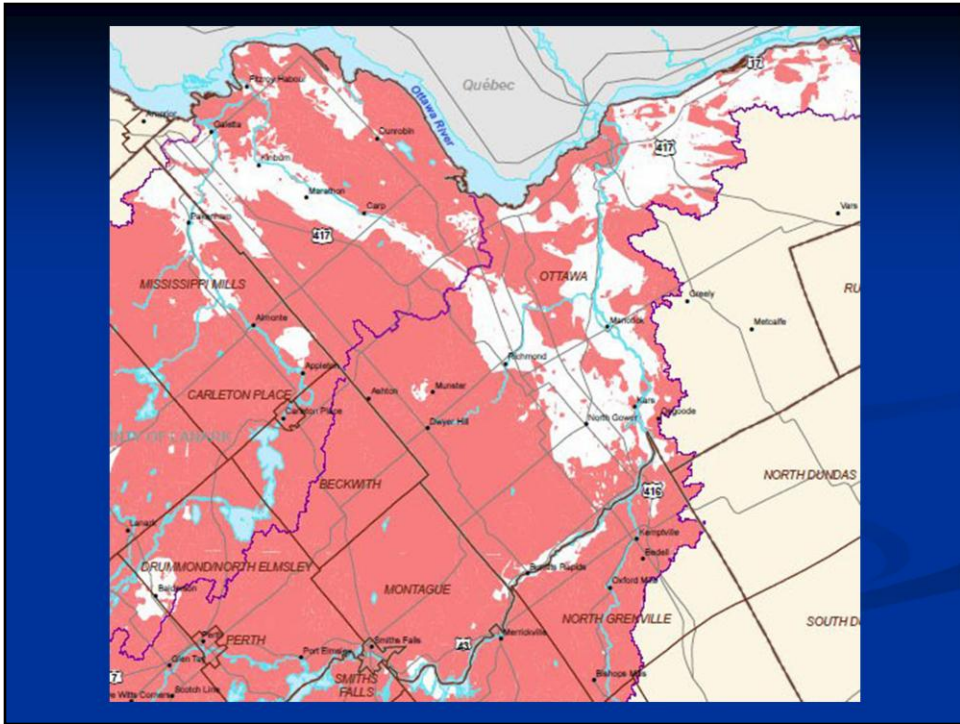
Two years ago, TransCanada's natural gas pipeline broke and exploded near Beardmore, in Northwestern Ontario. A huge fire, visible from miles away, burned out of control for over six hours. Imagine how much worse that could have been if that fire had been right beside a pipe carrying highly flammable dilbit.

That's an unprecedented situation, and we do not believe any emergency response team in our part of Ontario is ready for it.

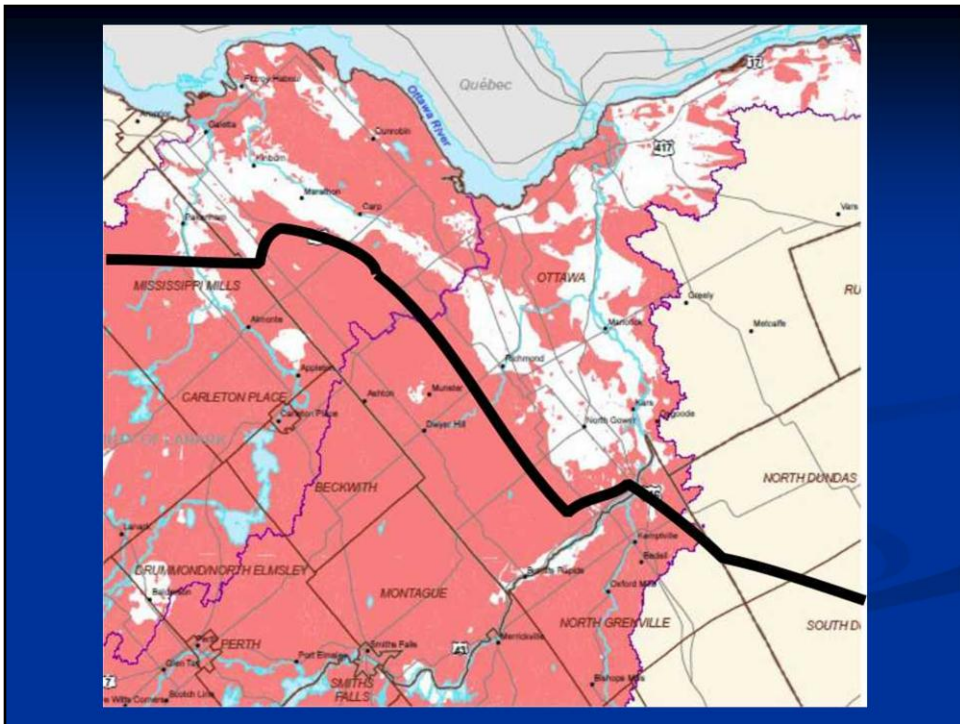
Second, we're concerned about the potential impact on one of North Grenville's most valuable resources, the Rideau River and Canal. It is a beautiful and historic waterway that is used by sixty to eighty thousand boats a year, and where many residents and tourists enjoy swimming, fishing and boating. We cannot imagine any benefit that could possibly offset the risk of poisoning the only UNESCO World Heritage site in all

of Ontario.

Our third concern is drinking water.



All drinking water in North Grenville comes from wells – municipal wells in Kemptville, private wells elsewhere. The red area on this map shows the part of the aquifer that our wells get water from. As you can see, the aquifer also provides water to southern and western Ottawa. And here is the pipeline route.



As this map shows, if something gets into the aquifer in South Gower, it can affect the drinking water in Oxford Mills or Merrickville. If there's a spill in Ottawa, North Grenville's water will be at risk – and vice versa. Mother Nature doesn't care about municipal borders.

Actually the red area is two aquifers -- a deep one called the Nepean Aquifer, which municipal wells use, and a much shallower one called the Oxford Aquifer, which all private wells use.

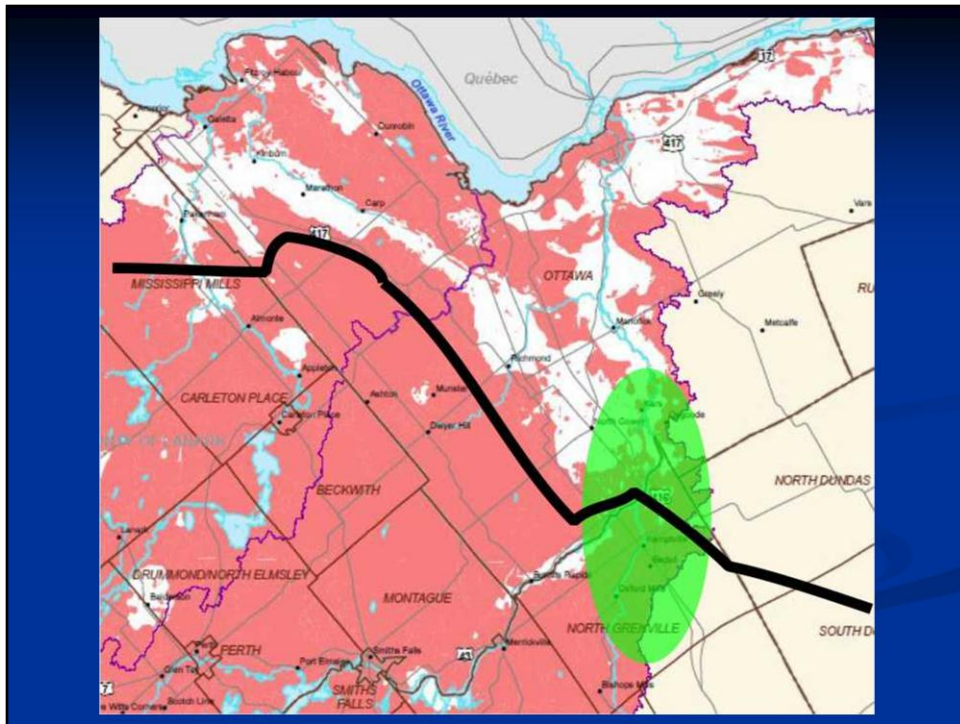
70% of homes in North Grenville have private wells, which means 10,000 people in our town depend on the shallow Oxford Aquifer.

It is rated as Highly Vulnerable – that's the worst rating that experts can assign.

There's no category of aquifer that's more vulnerable than Highly Vulnerable.

It is Highly Vulnerable because the soil in this part of Ontario is mostly very thin, so it can't absorb much. And the rock under the soil has many holes and fractures, so if liquid poisons hit the surface, they can easily find their way down to our drinking water.

It gets worse. Water doesn't get into aquifers by magic. It starts as rain or snow, and it enters the aquifer in "Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas" – areas where natural conditions allow lots of surface water to reach the aquifer.



One of the biggest Groundwater Recharge Areas for the Oxford Aquifer is exactly where the TransCanada pipeline goes!

A pipeline leak in that part of North Grenville could poison wells throughout our entire community and beyond.

It doesn't take much of a spill to do that. In 1991 in Manotick, a single tank containing dry cleaning solvent leaked, poisoning 74 local wells.

Manotick had to spend millions of dollars to build a new water distribution system.

Manotick continues to pipe its water from Ottawa, because the local water supply still isn't safe 22 years later.

The threat we face from Energy East is vastly greater. If TransCanada's plan is approved, our Highly Vulnerable Aquifer will be crossed by a pipeline carrying 1.1 million barrels of oil and solvents a day.

When this very pipeline exploded in Beardmore Ontario two years ago, it took TransCanada six hours to shut off the gas flow.

In that amount of time, the proposed pipe could lose 275,000 barrels of tar sands crude – that's **over 7 million gallons, 33 million litres**, of poisonous gunk, sinking into our aquifer in just a few hours. By comparison, leaks from home heating oil tanks and dry cleaning shops which can cost millions to remediate or mitigate, are tiny problems.

Alberta alone has averaged two crude oil pipeline spills a day, **every day for the past 37 years**. And those are just the spills that were reported. So it isn't a question of ***whether*** this proposed crude oil pipeline will leak – it is a question of ***where*** and

when and how much.

Three Issues

- Physical safety
 - Rail
 - Pipeline
- Rideau River & Canal
 - UNESCO Heritage site
 - Major tourism & Recreation Resource
- Drinking water
 - Crude oil in a Significant Recharge Area for a vital aquifer

In short, Energy East poses serious threats to our physical safety, to an historic river-canal system, and to the water that most people in North Grenville depend upon. If this pipeline is converted, the citizens of North Grenville will bear these risks while deriving no benefits whatsoever. North Grenville doesn't need, and doesn't want, this pipeline.

Seeing as I have a few moments left, I would like to add a few words on the intersection of economic and environmental aspects.

Your mandate includes "*The short and long term economic impacts of the project in Ontario*". I also note that *Ontario has a Green Energy and Economy Act*. Earlier I mentioned the latest IPCC report. It is clear that a decarbonized economy **is** in the interest of the Government of Ontario and its citizens. Energy East is inconsistent with that strategy. Further, not only does Energy East **not** bring energy to Ontario for us to use, it proposes to **stop** delivery of natural gas – a less carbon intensive energy – to Ontarians from this very pipeline.

On the economy, our Government's role is to protect our collective future and foster constructive economic growth. I would go further and suggest that it should be **sustainable** growth. This project brings no permanent jobs to Ontario, but leaves us with massive impending risks. How does that help us, especially since carbon energies have no future?

On the other hand, it is well known that the businesses offering conservation,

efficiency and clean energy alternatives provide far more employment opportunity. These jobs are local, and a sound investment in labour competencies that can't be outsourced overseas and are necessary for a low carbon future.

Allowing private investors to sink billions into Energy East – a project that they will want to keep operational for decades in order to get their return on investment – will entrench Canada deeper into a dirty, extractive, legacy economy and further from what we need if we are to have a future and a carbon-neutral world.

Instead of approving this project, Ontario should send a clear message about where our future is: say **NO** to Energy East and invite businesses to invest in clean energy technologies, products, and services in Ontario.