



DND concerns related to the TC Energy Pumped Storage Project

Over three years after our Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) request, we have obtained over 1,500 pages from the Department of National Defense (DND). These documents shed light on the Department of National Defense's serious environmental concerns related to the TC Energy Pumped Storage Project.

- **Species at Risk** - In these documents, the DND expresses their concern for the many federally protected species at risk that call CFB Meaford home. Specifically, DND wrote *"There are potentially up to 30 federally protected species at risk (SAR) throughout the 4 CDTC [4th Canadian Division Training Centre] property; and potentially 20 SAR within the proposed project location."* They go on to write that *"This proposed PSP is estimated to devastate approximately 10% of 4 CDTC's wildlife with direct effects alone."*
- **Contaminated Soils** - The DND also expresses their concern about the spread of soil contamination. Specifically, DND wrote *"Over the years the impact area has been heavily used for various types of fires. The expended rounds have caused various types of contamination from heavy metals to other toxins. Disturbing the soil would expose more of these elements to the surrounding area (air, land, and water) and if the soil were used as part of the reservoir walls, then the heavy metals and toxins could cause increased contamination of the water. Pollution of the water creates large concerns for marine animals' health and for any person drawing water from the bay for personal use."* They go on to write *"Given the nature of the area being proposed, there is a very real concern that contaminants introduced by the CAF over years of training area use could spread once the area is disturbed by construction."*
- **Unexploded Ordnance** - These documents also show that the current estimated \$4.3 billion construction cost and completion date for this project are unrealistic, due to the enormous scope of work associated with the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) that must be performed before construction can begin. Specifically, DND wrote: *"TransCanada has limited to no experience working in an area with UXOs. Their current estimate states three years of consultation and planning and four years of construction. They have not factored in the UXO problem. ADM(IE) pers around the table stated that UXO clearance could add years to construction"* and *"DND expressed that they have concerns with TCE's proposed location given their lack of UXO expertise, given their history of projects."*