

Approval processes and public comments

TC Energy is in the very early stages of introducing and developing this proposed project. There are numerous levels of assessment and approvals required before this concept could become a reality.

The Department of National Defence (DND) is currently in the preliminary stages of conducting reviews of the proposed project to be certain that it would not affect their current or future military training and operations. DND is undertaking consultations in order to hear and respond to interests and concerns. DND can be contacted at ThirdPartyAccess@forces.gc.ca or through their consultation website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/campaigns/consultations-4th-division-hydroelectric-pumped-storage-meaford.html>.

If the proposed project is pursued, the first government regulatory approvals that TC Energy's proposed project would be subject to are an Environmental Assessment under the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) and a federal Impact Assessment under the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency). These assessments include mandated public engagement processes. General information on MECP and the Agency's public engagement processes is available at the following websites:

- Consultation in Ontario's environmental assessment process (MECP): <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-ontarios-environmental-assessment-process>
- Public Participation (the Agency): <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/public-participation.html>

Should a decision be made to move forward with the provincial and federal Environmental / Impact Assessments, TC Energy will provide updates to stakeholders via mail and publish notices in local newspapers to ensure there is broad awareness of the assessment processes. This will include detailed information on the project-specific public engagement processes and key contact information. Throughout these assessments there would be numerous opportunities for communities and stakeholders to participate at various stages of the processes. We are hopeful to kick-off some of these activities in the latter part of 2019.

Following the provincial Environmental Assessment and federal Impact Assessment processes, the proposed project would then require numerous approvals or permits from other federal and provincial government regulatory agencies, such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs, Transport Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Sport, the Ontario Energy Board, and Conservation Authorities.

TC Energy is committed to engaging early, openly and frequently with communities and stakeholders throughout all stages of the proposed project, including providing ongoing opportunities for communities and stakeholders to provide input into, and review the outcomes of, the various environmental and socio-economic studies and assessments that will be undertaken. Prior to and during the proposed project assessment processes, some of the ways we gather feedback from the community are by:

- hosting local open houses;
- conducting public presentations with affected or interested groups;
- having in-person meetings and discussions; and
- providing written materials and other forms of communication to supplement our in-person outreach (for example, fact sheets, brochures, a project website, email and toll-free telephone line).

More information on the timing of engagement activities, including open houses will be provided in the coming months. We are committed to keeping you updated as the proposed project progresses and always welcome your feedback and comments as it relates to the proposed project.