

TransCanada's Energy East pipeline plan: Our Risk, Their Reward



1. The Tar Sands

The tar sands are the fastest growing source of carbon pollution in Canada. Building massive new fossil fuel infrastructure like Energy East could further increase Canada's climate pollution. These increases could be inconsistent with Alberta's proposed cap on carbon pollution and Canada's commitment at the U.N. climate summit in Paris to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

2. Hardisty, Alberta

Energy East would begin in Hardisty, Alberta, a major terminal for tar sands bitumen. Often diluted with toxic and explosive chemicals like benzene, tar sands oil is more dangerous to ship by pipeline than conventional oil. If spilled into a waterway, heavy tar sands bitumen can sink and coat river and lake bottoms, which makes it harder and more expensive to cleanup.

3. Kenora Region and Winnipeg

Energy East passes directly through Kenora and the Lake of the Woods watershed. It also crosses Shoal Lake, the primary source of Winnipeg's drinking water. A spill here could impact hundreds of thousands of people, and cause significant harm to the local economy.

4. Otterburne, Manitoba

In January 2014, a natural gas pipeline in the same network to be converted for Energy East exploded in a massive fireball 50 km south of Winnipeg. TransCanada admits it still doesn't know what caused the incident. This was just one of many incidents on TransCanada's pipeline network in recent years, raising questions about the company's safety practices.

5. Thunder Bay

The pipeline route runs north of Thunder Bay, creating the risk of a major tar sands oil spill into Lake Superior. The Township of Nipigon is particularly vulnerable.

6. Temagami

Energy East would cross through Temagami, a cherished ecosystem of old-growth pine forests and pristine lakes. The region is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabe people and is home to the Temagami First Nation, one of 52 independent First Nations and Metis communities directly located along the proposed pipeline's route.

7. North Bay

Energy East would threaten North Bay's source of drinking water, Trout Lake, with the risk of tar sands oil spills. Oil spills anywhere in this region would threaten the health, environment and economy of North Bay as well as the Mattawa River system downstream.

8. Quebec City crossing

TransCanada wants to bury this high pressure tar sands oil pipeline under the St. Lawrence River, west of Quebec City – creating the possibility that oil could leak or rupture directly into the river.

9. Export Tankers:

Energy East is primarily an export pipeline. It's estimated that 70 to 90 per cent of the pipeline's tar sands oil would be exported unrefined on tankers, much of it to heavy oil refineries in India, Europe and the United States. Energy East would dramatically increase tanker traffic in the Bay of Fundy, which would threaten coastal ecosystems, fisheries, tourism and marine species with the risk of oil spills.

RejectEnergyEast.ca



environmental
defence