



130 Balm Beach Road West
Tiny, Ontario L0L 2J0
(705) 526-4204 | 1-866-939-8469
www.tiny.ca

November 3, 2025

Re: TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project

At its October 29, 2025 Council Meeting, the Township of Tiny Council ratified a resolution regarding the TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project.

In accordance with Council's direction, a copy of this resolution and additional correspondence received from the Severn Sound Environmental Association regarding this matter are attached for your attention.

Thank you,

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF TINY



Tina Arbuckle
Deputy Clerk



The Corporation of the Township of Tiny

Meeting Date: October 29, 2025

Moved by: _____ Carried: _____ 5-0

Seconded by: _____ Defeated: _____

Signed: _____

WHEREAS the Township of Tiny recognizes the importance of developing reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure for the Province of Ontario and acknowledges that energy projects of this scale may have significant environmental, economic, and social implications for our region, particularly for Georgian Bay and surrounding ecosystems;

AND WHEREAS the proposed TC Energy Ontario Pumped Storage Project is located within the Municipality of Meaford, the Township of Tiny is committed to ensuring that the interests of our residents and the health of Georgian Bay are fully considered;

AND WHEREAS the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) has twice recommended to the Ministry of Energy (MOE) that this Pumped Storage project would not reduce electricity costs and have no economic value to Ontario ratepayers;

AND WHEREAS the IESO has authorized newer, more efficient and less environmentally invasive technologies such as Long-Duration Battery Storage, as they not only take less property and time to build, they can be built at more locations closer to high demand markets, reducing the need for long transmission corridors;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Defence has warned of toxic contamination of Georgian Bay when soil on 4th Canadian Division Training Centres is disturbed by construction;

AND WHEREAS some 30 endangered species will be put at risk should the project proceed;

AND WHEREAS the Niagara escarpment is a UNESCO designated geological formation deserving of protection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Tiny Council emphasizes the following principles:

1. **Environmental Stewardship:** The Township of Tiny is deeply concerned about potential irreversible impacts on aquatic ecosystems, water quality, and species at risk in Georgian Bay. Any project of this magnitude must meet the highest standards of environmental assessment and protection.

2. **Transparent Governance and Consultation:** We call for full transparency in the project approval process, including open communication with neighbouring municipalities and local stakeholders. Public consultation and meaningful engagement with communities in the Georgian Bay region are essential.

3. **Regional Collaboration:** The Township of Tiny encourages collaboration between municipalities, provincial authorities, and Indigenous partners to ensure that any energy project reflects regional priorities, including environmental protection, economic sustainability, and community well-being.

4. **Precautionary Approach** Given the uncertainties and potential ecological risks, the Township of Tiny advocates for a precautionary approach. We support comprehensive independent studies and a thorough review process before any approvals or construction activities proceed.

AND THAT Council reaffirms its commitment to representing the interests of our residents and protecting the natural heritage of Georgian Bay, and stands ready to engage constructively with TC Energy, the Municipality of Meaford, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and provincial authorities to ensure that energy development in our region proceeds responsibly and sustainably;

AND THAT that this resolution be forwarded to all municipalities in the Georgian Bay Basin, the IESO, DND, Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans, Simcoe North Member of Parliament, Simcoe North Member of Provincial Parliament, Canadian Coast Guard, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to request their co-operation in preventing this project from proceeding;

AND THAT the correspondence from the SSEA dated September 9, 2025 regarding the TC Energy Pumped Storage Proposal be included in the submission.



Severn Sound Environmental Association

489 Finlayson St, PO Box 460, Port McNicoll ON L0K 1R0

Phone (705) 534-7283 | Website: www.severnsound.ca

September 9, 2025

Township of Tiny
130 Balm Beach Road W
Tiny, Ontario
L0L 2J0

Dear Mayor and Council,

RE: SSEA Comment – Requested by Township of Tiny Council RE: The TC Energy Pumped Storage Proposal

The SSEA has conducted an initial assessment of the TC Energy pumped storage proposal. The proposed project falls outside of the Severn Sound watershed and the jurisdiction of the SSEA. The local watershed planning authority and organization with local expertise on this site and this project would be the Grey Sauble Conservation Authority.

While SSEA staff can't provide specific comment on localized effects of the pumped storage facility near Meaford, we offer some thoughts on potential widespread effects on Georgian Bay, specifically considering the western coast of Tiny Township, which of all the shorelines in the SSEA service area is most likely to be impacted. Georgian Bay is already under stress from the impacts of climate change, localized algae blooms, invasive species, habitat loss and the loss of species at risk, so any project that will add to one of these stressors should be scrutinized and all appropriate mitigation measures taken.

Our primary concern is around the precedent that a project like this might set, and the possibility of a similar project being proposed in the Severn Sound area in the future. If the proposed pumped storage was within the Severn Sound watershed, the SSEA would want to see a rigorous and comprehensive environmental impact assessment completed, including considerations for fish/fish habitat, species at risk and their habitat, sediment and water temperature impacts, and identification of avoidance and mitigation measures, and permitting/authorizations that may be required.

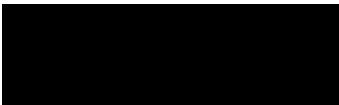
With the anticipated large volume of water and extensive wind and current driven mixing, the effects of increased temperature from pumped storage outflow are likely to be localized and temperatures in Georgian Bay are more likely to be impacted by climate change. However, the cumulative effect of thermal pollution from pumped

storage systems should be considered, particularly if this type of project is to become more widespread. Any potential increases in turbidity from inflow or outflow of water would also be more likely to be localized effects, however given the along-shore currents that occur along the south coast of Georgian Bay, modelling should be undertaken to determine how far-reaching turbidity effects will be. We understand that there is concern about sediment-bound chemicals in the area around the proposed pumped storage site, which may be disturbed during construction and/or operation of the facility. We would strongly encourage thorough sediment sampling for persistent contaminants like heavy metals and PFAS, which could enter the food web and have impacts beyond the immediate local area. Fish communities will likely be impacted by the project and may have further reaching effects since fish migrate throughout the Bay.

The Lake Huron Action and Management Plan (<https://binational.net/2024/03/12/lake-huron-lamp-2022-2026/>) identifies priority actions to reduce chemical contamination, manage nutrients and algae, prevent and control invasive species, and restore and protect habitat and native species. As members of the LAMP partnership, the provincial and federal governments should ensure that implementing projects like pumped storage does not run counter to the intent of this document.

SSEA emphasises the importance of thorough consideration and evaluation of environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Julie Cayley.

Julie Cayley, Executive Director

CC: Robert Lamb, Chief Administrative Officer, Township of Tiny
Laura Russell, Director of Legislative Services/ Clerk, Township of
Tiny Tim Leitch, Director of Public Works, Township of Tiny