

May 14, 2026

Eve Mcleod Norberg  
A/Project Manager  
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada  
[nottawasaga@iaac-aeic.gc.ca](mailto:nottawasaga@iaac-aeic.gc.ca)

Re: TC Energy's Response to Summary of Issues

Dear Ms. Mcleod Norberg:

TransCanada Energy Ltd. (**TC Energy**) is advancing the Ontario Pumped Storage Hydropower Project (the **Project**) which is predominantly within a restricted access area of the Department of National Defence's Army Training Centre – Central (**ATC-C**) in Meaford, Ontario. The Project is proposed in response to the Independent Electrical System Operator's (**IESO**) forecasted need for increased energy storage capacity for the Ontario electrical grid. TC Energy intends to advance the Project in collaboration with its prospective partner, Saugeen Ojibway Nation. While identified as the prospective partner in the Project, at this time Saugeen Ojibway Nation has not reached an agreement with TC Energy and has not provided an endorsement of, or acceptance of, the Project design or potential mitigation measures.

TC Energy views the impact assessment process as a vital part of demonstrating that the Project is considered thoughtfully, transparently, and in the public interest. The impact assessment process provides a structured opportunity to examine potential environmental, social, economic, and community effects, while also identifying ways to enhance positive outcomes and mitigate potential impacts. The process creates meaningful space for input from Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, government agencies, local communities, and the broader public. TC Energy appreciates the opportunity to participate in this collaborative process and believes it plays an essential role in building understanding, trust, and informed decision-making as the Project progresses.

The Initial Project Description (**IPD**) was prepared to describe the Project based on the *Physical Activities Regulations* and the information requirements outlined in the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulation*. The IPD summarized the preliminary design of the Project, engagement efforts to date, the results of studies completed to date, provides a preliminary characterization of existing conditions, and identifies potential interactions with various components of the environment. Collaboration with Saugeen Ojibway Nation through engagement and technical discussion has informed the scope of environmental and archaeological field studies. Saugeen Ojibway Nation's feedback on early conceptual design encouraged changes including to the design and position of the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structures, to reduce potential impacts to aquatic habitats and fish, as well as moving the majority of the Project's Powerhouse facilities underground to limit potential effects to the terrestrial environment.

Following submission of the IPD to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) on February 24, 2026, and the conclusion of the initial public comment period that closed on April 6, 2026, TC Energy received the Summary of Issues from IAAC outlining what IAAC considers to be the key issues relevant for the federal impact assessment process for the Project. TC Energy acknowledges receipt of the Summary of Issues and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

It is understood that TC Energy's response to the Summary of Issues plays an important role in determining whether an Impact Assessment is required under Section 16 of the *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA) and in informing the scope of the Impact Assessment and Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines (TISG). It is also understood that the response to the Summary of Issues will be used to focus the Impact Assessment and information requirements of TC Energy's Impact Statement on the key issues raised by Indigenous rights-holders and groups, federal authorities, provincial agencies, and the public as they pertain to matters within federal jurisdiction, consistent with messaging received from IAAC as part of the recent efforts to improve efficiency of the IAA process. TC Energy trusts that the information provided will inform the Project-specific TISG in a manner that focusses the Impact Statement on such key issues.

### **Approach to the Response to the Summary of Issues**

This response to the Summary of Issues has been prepared to address each issue identified by IAAC, including those raised through public engagement, Indigenous engagement, and input from federal authorities, including information provided in the Advice Records prepared by federal and provincial agencies, information received to date from Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, and information available through the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry.

Importantly, the Saugeen Ojibway Nation has shared issues and concerns regarding the Project with TC Energy which need to be addressed from their perspective. These concerns are generally consistent with those included in the Summary of Issues. Saugeen Ojibway Nation has participated in engagement and technical discussions with TC Energy which has informed Project programs and data collection intended to assess impacts, potential mitigation measures and additional study measures.. TC Energy will continue to work with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation to resolve outstanding questions and concerns.

For each issue, the response outlines TC Energy's intended approach to avoidance, mitigation, further study, or management of these issues at a level of detail that takes into account the level of engineering that has been completed to date and is appropriate for the Planning Phase of the IAA process. TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures<sup>1</sup> identified by IAAC and identified those it is prepared to commit to at this time, with the intent of enabling IAAC to streamline the information requirements set out in the TISG. While TC Energy anticipates meeting the intention of the measures identified by the IAAC that would be applicable to the Project, the unique nature and contexts of the Project make direct adoption of these mitigation

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/standard-mitigation-measures.html>

measures impractical at this point. As the Project advances through detailed construction planning, TC Energy believes that through minor modifications to many of the measures identified by IAAC, that it will be able to develop robust and achievable mitigation measures to address potential impacts, and where adverse impacts are not fully addressed, TC Energy will work with regulatory agencies to develop suitable offset or compensation measures. As such, the responses describe how these matters will be addressed through Project design refinements, future studies, commitments to mitigation measures, best practices, standards, guidelines, commitments to follow-up programs, or applicable legislative and regulatory frameworks. TC Energy recognizes that, as additional information becomes available through the TISG and other Planning Phase documents, including continued dialog with Indigenous rights-holders and groups, federal authorities, and provincial agencies, that there may be some issues that require further clarification or refinement to focus on issues within federal jurisdiction.

TC Energy looks forward to continued collaboration with IAAC to advance the assessment of issues within federal jurisdiction in a timely manner. The responses that follow provide a direct, issue-by-issue explanation of how the Summary of Issues will be addressed in the Impact Statement, should an impact assessment be required, consistent with IAAC guidance and recent Government of Canada direction on regulatory efficiency.

TC Energy remains committed to early, meaningful, and ongoing engagement with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, as well as interested parties throughout the life of the Project. Engagement activities will continue as Project planning and design advance, with the objective of understanding concerns, incorporating Indigenous Knowledge (where it is shared), and considering input in the development of Project design, effects assessments, and mitigation measures.

### **Response to Summary of Issues**

Table 1 provides TC Energy's response to the Summary of Issues received from IAAC. TC Energy has provided responses to each of the identified key issues based on the approach outlined in Section 2.

TC Energy has also developed a Table 2 – OPSP – Primary Facility Guidelines and Standards (excluding Transmission Facilities outside of the ATC-C) to provide further clarity on federal and provincial regulatory approvals and/or guidelines that may apply in part or whole to the Project. As the Project progresses through additional engineering design and the impact assessment process, the applicability of any legislation, regulation, or guideline requirements will be confirmed. Accordingly, this table is for informational purposes only. Further, TC Energy notes that as the Project is a federal undertaking subject to regulation under the *Dominion Water Power Act*, TC Energy will not be seeking approval in whole or in part for any activities within federal jurisdiction from the Province of Ontario. That said, TC Energy intends to follow applicable provincial legislation and guidelines for Project components that are outside of the ATC-C and not subject to federal jurisdiction. In addition, TC Energy is assessing the applicability of provincial guidelines for Project activities within ATC-C for instances

where there is not an appropriate and applicable federal guideline and the adoption of these provincial guidelines as may be used as reference aids, if applicable and appropriate.

Best regards,

**TransCanada Energy Ltd.**

Stefan Skocylas  
Regulatory Lead  
Ontario Pumped Storage Project  
TC Energy

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<p><b>Fish and Fish Habitat</b></p>	
<p>Concerns about effects to fish and fish habitat, including spawning habitat, from in-water construction and operation of the inlet/outlet structure, including sedimentation, turbidity, and resuspension of materials, changes to water quality, and loss or alteration of habitat resulting from lakebed disruption and shoreline modification.</p>	<p>Throughout the ongoing design process, TC Energy has explored design as a means of mitigating potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat associated with operation of the Project. Specifically, design of the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure has incorporated flow dispersion measures and screens. The operation of the Project, in both pumping and generating modes, is not anticipated to lead to suspension of lakebed sediments, resulting in increases to natural levels of turbidity found within Georgian Bay. Further, TC Energy proposes to construct the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure via tunnelling to avoid direct impacts to shoreline aquatic habitat and proposes to locate the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure in deep water, about 800 metres away from the shoreline, to avoid this important shoreline fish habitat. Subject to additional engineering and construction planning work being advanced, the installation of riser pipes needed to join the Lower Inlet/Outlet tunnel to port diffusers above the lakebed is anticipated to use large diameter casing pipes to provide isolation of the coring works from the surrounding waters of Georgian Bay. For activities on land, TC Energy expects to employ appropriate mitigation measures and industry standard practices to provide protection and limit the mobilization of sediments into wetlands and watercourses, including Georgian Bay.</p> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC (January 2026). At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures to reduce the potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat specifically associated with the identified key issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize all erodible areas (including excavated materials) and regularly inspect and maintain the stability of these areas until they are permanently stable</li> <li>• Develop, to the satisfaction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and in consultation with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, and implement any offsetting plan for activities that may result in the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat, or the death of fish associated with the Project.</li> </ul> <p>TC Energy has collected multiple years of existing conditions data and continues to collect data to support technical assessments, which will eventually inform a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization. Additional mitigation measures, as needed, will be identified through ongoing technical assessments, as well as through engagement efforts with Indigenous rights-holders and groups, and described as part of a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization application.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding increased risk of fish mortality or injury through entrainment and impingement, blasting, and changes to hydrodynamic conditions such as water circulation, temperature, and stratification in Georgian Bay.</p>	<p>TC Energy recognizes that the Project will have an effect to the aquatic environment, including to fish. To date, TC Energy has designed the Project to mitigate potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat associated with the operation of the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure. Specifically, appropriately sized screens and low inlet flow velocity to reduce potential mortality of fish will be incorporated into the design of the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure and will be detailed in a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization.</p> <p>During normal operation of the Project, water is expected to be moved in and out of the Reservoir on a regular and frequent basis. Based on a conservative assessment of incremental heat gain that may be attributable to the passage of water through the Project conveyance system and generating units, outflows are expected to be elevated by approximately 0.05°C. Studies, including modelling, are ongoing to assess potential incremental changes to water temperature in Georgian Bay as a result of water storage within the Reservoir and operation of the Project under normal and aberrant conditions. Results of these studies will inform technical assessments and based on those results, if necessary, mitigation measures will be evaluated, including potential operation strategies.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures to reduce the potential adverse effects to fish and fish habitat associated with the key issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop, to the satisfaction of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and in consultation with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, and implement an offsetting plan for activities that may result in the harmful alteration, disruption, or destruction of fish habitat, or the death of fish associated with the Project.</li> </ul> <p>Studies will continue to inform design and operational parameters, which may be refined, as necessary and feasible, to increase protective measures. Studies focussing on the distribution and abundance of small fish (including both small-bodied species and the larvae and juveniles of large-bodied species) will support refinement of the design of the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure to reduce entrainment of these organisms, as feasible.</p> <p>TC Energy has collected multiple years of existing conditions data and continues to collect such data to support technical assessments that will ultimately inform a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization. Additional mitigation measures, as needed, will be identified through ongoing technical assessments, as well as through engagement efforts with Indigenous rights-holders and groups, and will be described as part of a <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization application.</p>
<p><b>Change to the Environment on Federal Lands</b></p>	
<p>Concerns regarding effects to species at risk, including increased mortality risk and loss or alteration of species at risk habitat, resulting in potential adverse effects on the survival and recovery of listed species.</p>	<p>Existing conditions studies carried out in support of the Project have identified terrestrial species at risk (SAR) protected under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> within the Army Training Centre – Central (ATC-C). TC Energy recognizes that the Project will have an effect to SAR and SAR habitat within portions of the Project footprint in which they currently reside.</p> <p>TC Energy will continue to work collaboratively with the Department of National Defence and Environment and Climate Change Canada to further understand existing conditions on the ATC-C and the broader regional context for SAR. This coordination will help inform existing conditions and assessment approaches.</p> <p>Where required, TC Energy will obtain the appropriate authorizations under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> for Project activities occurring on federal lands.</p> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures during the migratory bird nesting season to reduce the potential adverse effects to SAR migratory birds on federal lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine, under the direction of a qualified individual, the presence, or likely presence of migratory bird nest(s) protected under the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> and its regulations and residences protected under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> that may be adversely affected by the Project prior to initiating the activity. Non-intrusive methods used to determine the presence or likely presence of migratory bird nests should be appropriately selected based on the habitat type.</li> </ul> <p>TC Energy has collected multiple years of existing conditions data and continues to collect such data to support technical assessments to support an evaluation of potential effects on SAR. Additional mitigation measures, as needed, will be identified through ongoing technical assessments, as well as through engagement efforts with Indigenous rights-holders and groups and will be described as part of applications for authorizations under the <i>Species at Risk Act</i>.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<p>Concerns regarding changes to terrain stability resulting in potential risks of slope failure, erosion, and associated effects on federal lands.</p>	<p>Geotechnical studies continue to be undertaken to support design and engineering of the Project, including a review of geotechnical stability. The Project will be engineered to avoid changes in terrain stability. Further, the design will be undertaken by professionals with drawings and reports being signed and stamped by accredited professionals, as required by applicable regulation. As part of pre-construction planning, TC Energy will develop a management plan that incorporates expected industry-standard practices and Project-specific mitigation measures to manage erosion within the Project footprint.</p> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measure to reduce the potential to disturb soil disturbance and to manage unstabilized soils appropriately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize all erodible areas (including excavated materials) and regularly inspect and maintain the stability of these areas until they are permanently stable.</li> </ul> <p>As required under the <i>Dominion Water Power Act</i>, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada will complete a detailed analysis of TC Energy’s application including confirming “the proposed works are of suitable design to accomplish the purpose intended” (Section 8(1) of the <i>Dominion Water Power Regulations</i>).</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines terrain stability on federal lands is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an assessment of potential effects to terrain stability will be conducted as part of the Impact Statement.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding bedrock excavation causing metal leaching and acid rock drainage, resulting in potential changes to groundwater, and surface water quality on federal lands.</p>	<p>As part of the geotechnical studies completed to date, TC Energy has identified a low probability of interacting with bedrock that are anticipated to be potentially Metal Leaching / Acid Rock Drainage (<b>ML/ARD</b>). This low probability is based on the limited extent of the anticipated works that will interact within areas of potentially ML/ARD if exposed. In addition, TC Energy is validating this assessment through testing of bedrock samples for their potential to be ML/ARD. In the unlikely event that excavated bedrocks are determined to be ML/ARD, potential ML/ARD will be addressed through industry standard management strategies such as use of covers (e.g., soil).</p>
<p>Concerns regarding changes to groundwater flow and levels, resulting in potential effects on groundwater–surface water interactions and environmental conditions on federal lands.</p>	<p>To characterize the local groundwater system on federal lands, groundwater information has been collected as part of geotechnical investigations conducted at ATC-C from 2020 through 2026, which included the installation of groundwater monitoring wells in the areas of the Reservoir, Powerhouse and Water Conveyance Structures. Further baseline field programs are currently being undertaken including additional geotechnical drilling, stratigraphic logging, multi-level groundwater pressure monitoring instruments, and a groundwater pumping test.</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required, and IAAC ultimately determines changes to groundwater on federal lands is a key issue that is included in the TISG, a groundwater flow model will be prepared to understand the effects of the Reservoir operation on local groundwater pressures and surface water flow rates. Through this assessment, applicable measures to mitigate potential adverse effects will be identified.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding changes in air quality from construction activities, resulting in potential adverse effects on human health on federal lands.</p>	<p>Baseline air quality for the area will be established through a desktop study using available long-term air quality measurements data. The location of sensitive receptors on federal lands (e.g., residences and other locations on ATC-C as determined based on use) within the vicinity of Project components will be identified.</p> <p>As part of pre-construction planning and to mitigate potential changes in air quality from construction activities, TC Energy will develop management plans that incorporate industry-standard practices and Project-specific mitigation measures to manage dust and the potential release of other air quality contaminants. TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed</p>

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Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<p>to implementing the following mitigation measures to reduce the potential adverse effects from changes in air quality during construction to human health on federal lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To control fugitive dust emissions from material handling and construction vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish speed limits on Project roads</li> <li>- Use water or an environmentally acceptable alternative to stabilize the surface of Project roads and areas that may generate dust</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To control fugitive particulate emissions from mobile equipment and vehicles operating in the Project area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish and enforce a policy to prohibit unnecessary idling, except when required for health, safety, or operational reasons</li> <li>- Conduct regular inspection, servicing, and maintenance of engines and exhaust systems on all mobile equipment and vehicles</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines changes to air quality as a result of construction on federal lands is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an effects assessment will be completed to evaluate the potential for effects on human health on federal lands as a result of potential changes to air quality from construction activities. A Health Impact Assessment (<b>HIA</b>) would be prepared for the Project, which would include a conceptual model linking Project activities during construction, including air quality, to potential biophysical health-related-effects.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding increased noise and vibration levels from construction activities on federal lands.</p>	<p>The existing conditions for noise and vibration will be established through a review of land uses and baseline monitoring. The location of sensitive receptors on federal lands (e.g., residences and other locations on ATC-C as determined based on use) within the vicinity of Project components will be identified.</p> <p>To date, TC Energy has applied mitigation through design in response to concerns that have been identified related to noise. TC Energy has conceptually placed major facilities, except the Reservoir, underground or underwater reducing operation noise and limiting construction noise associated with underground works.</p> <p>As per the Initial Project Description (<b>IPD</b>), TC Energy has committed to the following mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TC Energy will adhere to applicable regulations (federal and/or provincial), guidance, and industry standards during construction.</li> <li>• As part of pre-construction planning TC Energy will develop management plans that incorporate industry-standard and Project-specific mitigation measures. This will include reasonable measures to manage construction-related vibration near residential areas</li> </ul> <p>TC Energy continues to collect existing conditions data and is undertaking technical assessments. If required, additional mitigation measures will be identified.</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines changes to noise and vibration levels as a result of construction on federal lands is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an effects assessment including an HIA will be prepared for the Project. The HIA would include a conceptual model linking Project activities during construction, including the acoustic environment, to potential biophysical health-related-effects. The effects assessment would also include an assessment of potential adverse effects on SAR and migratory birds on federal lands as a result of changes in noise and vibrations affecting behaviours and use of habitat.</p>

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Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<p><b>Structures, Sites, or Things of Historical, Archaeological, Paleontological, or Architectural Significance to Indigenous Peoples</b></p> <p>Concern about disturbance or loss of heritage resources and uncertainty regarding identification, protection, and management of culturally significant sites.</p>	<p>Studies conducted to date have identified historical buildings, including farmsteads, outbuildings, foundations, and a cooper’s shop, within the vicinity of the Project. Cemeteries were also identified near but not in conflict with the Project, including the Boyle Family Cemetery which is located north of 9<sup>th</sup> Line within ATC-C. An Archaeological Overview Assessment identified areas of archaeological potential requiring further assessment.</p> <p>TC Energy is conducting additional archaeological and cultural heritage studies, for both terrestrial and lakebed areas, that will potentially be affected by the Project. These studies have been planned and are being executed in collaboration with Saugeen Ojibway Nation Environment Office. These studies will help identify previously unknown archaeological and cultural heritage resources, and if warranted, further work will be undertaken to either avoid the resource or manage it through systematic recovery in consultation with Indigenous rights-holders, Indigenous groups and relevant authorities.</p> <p>TC Energy plans to install components (e.g., Powerhouse, Headraces, and Tailraces) as well as near-shore infrastructure using low disturbance techniques (e.g., tunnelling), where feasible, to reduce surface disturbances which might put archaeological resources at risk. Where possible and appropriate, siting of surface infrastructure will avoid identified archaeological resources.</p> <p>As per the IPD, TC Energy has committed to the following mitigation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During construction, TC Energy will implement an archaeological chance find protocol, to be developed in collaboration with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, to manage previously unknown resources, if found.</li> <li>• Identifying burials, archaeological sites and historical features is an important aspect of the studies underway and will be used to identify areas to be avoided during construction. Burials are considered the most sensitive of cultural sites and avoidance will be a priority. If previously unknown burial sites are identified, all activities in the vicinity of the site that could impact its integrity will immediately be ceased. If unknown burial sites are identified within ATC-C, notifications will follow an established protocol including notifying appropriate Department of National Defence personnel, Saugeen Ojibway Nation, and then law enforcement and the Registrar of the Bereavement Authority of Ontario (if remains do not have a forensic interest). In the situation where human remains are associated with archaeological resources outside of ATC-C (i.e., within provincial jurisdiction), the police or coroner and Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism will be notified. TC Energy will work with applicable Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups to determine culturally appropriate measures, where possible.</li> </ul> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures to protect and manage chance finds for any previously unidentified structures, sites or things of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance discovered within the Project footprint:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediately halt work at the location of a discovery</li> <li>• Delineate an area around a discovery as a no-work zone</li> <li>• Develop mandatory training on chance finds, which includes the identification of sensitive locations within the Project area and the implementation of the above measures; and deliver this training to all employees and contractors associated with the Project</li> </ul>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. TC Energy will continue to engage with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups throughout the planning and execution of the field studies. Specifically, Indigenous rights-holders and groups will be given the opportunity to provide Traditional Knowledge, including the identification of culturally significant sites, as desired by each group. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples Physical and Cultural Heritage</b></p>	
<p>Concern about the impact of the project on the relationship with the land, including spiritual and cultural impacts.</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. While some potential effects related to Indigenous rights-holders and groups' relationship with the land may be perceived, access restrictions within this area have been in place since 1942 due to Department of National Defence land use and security requirements, and the Project is not expected to introduce new or expanded access limitations, with the exception of additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential effects on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes</b></p>	
<p>Concerns about effects to fishing, navigation, and harvesting, due to changes in access in Georgian Bay, availability, and quality of lands and resources.</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. During construction and operations, there may be additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure. As such, impacts to fishing, navigation and harvesting are not anticipated.</p> <p>TC Energy is conducting engineering and environmental studies to better understand the potential effect that the Project could have on the waters of Georgian Bay. The Project anticipates that the water withdrawn from Georgian Bay, temporarily stored in the Reservoir, and released back into Georgian Bay will not experience a change in quality in relation to the initial water quality sourced from Georgian Bay nor require treatment, as a result of pumping or generating.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p>
<p>Concerns about cumulative effects of existing restrictions on access to the 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Training Centre in combination with this</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. While some potential effects related to</p>

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Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<p>project, particularly to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes.</p>	<p>Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups’ relationship with the land may be perceived, access restrictions within this area have been in place since 1942 due to Department of National Defence land use and security requirements, and the Project is not expected to introduce new or expanded access limitations, with the exception of additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure. TC Energy requests that IAAC provide clarification on how there could be a cumulative effect as a result of the Project when access to ATC-C, specifically the Project site, is currently prohibited.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples’ Health, Social, and Economic Conditions</b></p>	
<p>Concerns regarding effects to Indigenous health from environmental changes affecting water quality, resource quality and availability, and access to clean water and country foods.</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. While some potential effects related to Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups’ relationship with the land may be perceived, access restrictions within this area have been in place since 1942 due to Department of National Defence land use and security requirements, and the Project is not expected to introduce new or expanded access limitations, with the exception of additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines this is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an HIA will be prepared to evaluate the Project’s potential effects on Health through biophysical and social pathways. The HIA will be informed by Health Canada’s 2024 interim guidance document “Health Impact Assessment of Designated Projects under the Impact Assessment Act” (<a href="#">HC 2024</a>). A Human Health Risk Assessment (<b>HHRA</b>) will be conducted as part of the HIA. The HHRA will be informed by Health Canada’s 2023 guidance documents for evaluating human health effects in Impact Assessments (e.g., guidance on HHRA, air, noise). Biophysical determinants include environmental conditions that may influence health (e.g., air and water quality, noise, and vibration), and social determinants include social, cultural, and economic conditions that shape the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, and work.</p>
<p>Concerns about effects to social and economic conditions from limiting access to lands and resources used for traditional purposes, affecting harvesting activities and associated livelihoods, and potentially undermining cultural continuity and community well-being.</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. While some potential effects related to Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups’ relationship with the land may be perceived, access restrictions within this area have been in place since 1942 due to Department of National Defence land use and security requirements, and the Project is not expected to introduce new or expanded access limitations, with the exception of additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure. As such, impacts to lands and resources used for traditional purposes are not anticipated.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines this is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an HIA will be prepared to evaluate the Project’s potential effects on Health through biophysical and social pathways. The HIA will be informed by Health Canada’s 2024 interim guidance document “Health Impact Assessment of Designated Projects under the Impact Assessment Act” (<a href="#">HC 2024</a>) and will have as a focus an assessment of community well-being.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding changes to surface water quality resulting in potential effects to drinking water for Indigenous communities and associated impacts on health and well-being.</p>	<p>The Project anticipates that the water withdrawn from Georgian Bay, temporarily stored in the Reservoir, and released back into Georgian Bay will not experience a change in quality in relation to the initial water quality sourced from Georgian Bay nor require treatment, as a result of pumping or generating. ATC-C has a water intake in close proximity to the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure, while the nearest water intake for a First Nation Reserve being located over 30 km away from the Project.</p> <p>A surface water assessment is currently being undertaken, including an assessment of the potential for changes to surface water quality to support an application for an Environmental Compliance Approval, under the provincial <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> and <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>; this approval will provide water quality discharge objectives which must be met by the Project. The Environmental Compliance Approval will include consideration of drinking water sources (i.e., Source Protection/Drinking Water Threats).</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines changes to surface water quality is a key issue that is included in the TISG, an HIA will be prepared to evaluate the Project’s potential effects on Health through biophysical and social pathways, including through actual or perceived changes in environmental quality (i.e., such as water quality).</p>
<p><b>Indigenous Peoples Rights</b></p>	
<p>Concern about impacts to the exercise of rights of Indigenous Peoples, resulting from effects on lands, waters, and resources used for traditional purposes.</p>	<p>TC Energy acknowledges the Project would occur on lands and waters with a history of Indigenous use. The Project is proposed to be located within ATC-C, in an area where access is prohibited without advance approval and escorts. The waters surrounding the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure within Georgian Bay are restricted and subject to a Military Practice Area mariners notice. While some potential effects related to Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups’ relationship with the land may be perceived, access restrictions within this area have been in place since 1942 due to Department of National Defence land use and security requirements. Prior to 1942, the Project area was private farmland and freehold settlements first surveyed in 1833. The Project is not expected to introduce new or expanded access limitations, with the exception of anticipated additional navigational limitations associated with the Lower Inlet/Outlet Structure. As such, impacts to lands, waters, and resources use for traditional purposes are not anticipated.</p> <p>Through ongoing engagement efforts, Indigenous and local knowledge of the Project area continues to be gathered. Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups will also be engaged to discuss potential impacts on the exercise or practice of Indigenous and treaty rights identified, and the mitigation options available to reduce those impacts.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<b>Community Well-Being and Infrastructure</b>	
<p>Concerns regarding influx of construction workers causing increased demand for housing, local services, and infrastructure, leading to more pressures on community capacity and well-being on federal lands and surrounding areas.</p>	<p>TC Energy is exploring a variety of workforce accommodation strategies to meet the Project’s anticipated workforce requirements, including the use of temporary workforce accommodation during the construction phase of the Project. During Project operations, pressures on local services, infrastructure and housing due to permanent workforce (15 to 30 staff) are not anticipated as staff will integrate into the broader community (e.g., purchase homes) or will be hired locally. Services on federal lands are limited to the Garrison facilities which are primarily focused for ATC-C personnel.</p> <p>To date, TC Energy has identified a number of mitigation measures related to services/infrastructures and traffic management, labour and accommodations, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Labour and Accommodations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TC Energy continues to evaluate labour market capacity and projected Project labour demand. TC Energy will work to hire qualified workers for both construction and operation phases of the Project from local communities. TC Energy continues to evaluate whether potential temporary workforce accommodations will be required for the construction phase.</li> <li>- TC Energy will continue discussing with affected communities and the public regarding potential workforce accommodation options and potential mitigation measures to address potential adverse effects and enhancing the positive spending effects from workers in the region.</li> <li>- A workforce and socio-economic accommodation strategy will be developed and communicated to potentially affected communities.</li> <li>- Construction contractors and TC Energy employees will follow Project policies and procedures on health and safety, environmental protection and local supplier participation to mitigate potential adverse effects.</li> <li>- The Project’s “Hire &amp; Buy Local” program aims to prioritize local employment, materials and vendors to create direct and local benefits and increases downstream spending at local businesses.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Services/Infrastructure and Traffic Management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ongoing engagement with the public and government officials responsible for transportation, emergency and policing services will continue to identify potential issues and mitigation measures and will inform the Project’s traffic management plan.</li> <li>- Engagement with impacted Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, local communities and the public will continue to identify potential issues related to community’s well-being and socio-cultural conditions and build mitigation for potential adverse effects</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Clarification is required as to how this key issue, specifically consideration of community capacity and well-being of the surrounding area is considered a matter within federal jurisdiction, consistent with messaging received from IAAC as part of the recent efforts to improve efficiency of the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i> process.</p>
<p>Concerns regarding pre-existing contamination, and the potential for soil disturbance, overburden handling, stormwater runoff, and construction activities to cause changes to water quality in drinking water wells adjacent to the project.</p>	<p>TC Energy has initiated studies to gather information on existing soil conditions, including through ongoing geotechnical investigation programs which were initiated in 2020, as well as the collection of surficial soil samples from the Reservoir area in 2021. These studies have been conducted under the context of the current and historical use of ATC-C lands for military activity, such that there is potential for soil contamination. This will be further evaluated as the Project progresses.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<p>During construction, there is the potential for runoff from within construction areas where soils have been exposed. Specifically, earth works have the potential to destabilize soil that could lead to sediment accumulation in runoff. Additionally, some deep excavation and/or tunneling may require construction dewatering. A construction storm water management plan will be implemented. This plan will consist of a series of diversion ditches meant to collect contact water, which may drain to sediment ponds that provide treatment prior to release to the environment, if required. The sediment ponds will be designed and operated in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines. In addition, erosion and sediment control measures including, but not limited to, silt fence, erosion blankets, and mud mats will be employed to reduce soil erosion, provide temporary stabilization of soils, and control sediment transport.</p> <p>During operations, a stormwater management system will be in place to provide conveyance and water-quality protection through a combination of drainage ditches, culverts, grassed swales and potential bioretention, and other measures. The stormwater management system will be designed and operated in accordance with applicable standards and guidelines.</p> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measure to reduce the potential to disturb soil disturbance and to manage unstabilized soils appropriately:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilize all erodible areas (including excavated materials) and regularly inspect and maintain the stability of these areas until they are permanently stable.</li> </ul> <p>If an Impact Statement is required and IAAC ultimately determines this is a key issue that is included in the TISG, a groundwater flow model will be prepared including to assess groundwater use, conduct model analysis, and determine effects on local groundwater quality. An effects assessment would also be completed to evaluate the potential effects to drinking water for Indigenous communities and wells on federal lands (if applicable) and associated impacts on health and well-being.</p>
<b>Accidents and Malfunctions</b>	
<p>Concern about infrastructure malfunctions, accidents and failures, such as the upper ring dam, reservoir, conveyance systems, and spillways.</p>	<p>TC Energy has completed a feasibility study and pre-front-end engineering design for the Project, including the consideration of design-based mitigation to protect the Project and surrounding environment in the event of an accident or malfunction. Considerations for accidents and malfunctions in the design process include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Reservoir has been designed to the 1:10,000-year Annual Exceedance Probability in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources’ <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i> and the Canadian Dam Safety Guidelines (<a href="#">Canadian Dam Association 2007</a>)</li> <li>• The Project is subject to National Building Code of Canada, National Fire Code of Canada and National Fire Protection Association 850, as applicable</li> <li>• The Switchyard will be equipped with fire suppression systems compliant with applicable codes</li> <li>• As required under the <i>Dominion Water Power Act</i>, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada will complete a detailed analysis of TC Energy’s application including confirming “the proposed works are of suitable design to accomplish the purpose intended” (Section 8(1) of the <i>Dominion Water Power Regulations</i>)</li> <li>• Perimeter fencing will surround the Reservoir, Switchyard, and associated facilities</li> <li>• Commitment to implement a Dam Safety Advisory Board to provide independent expert oversight through periodic reviews to support TC Energy during Project design, construction, and operation</li> <li>• A contingency spillway to provide a conveyance route for water from the Reservoir to Georgian Bay in the unlikely scenario where water levels in the Reservoir exceed normal operating parameters</li> </ul>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back-up power supply to support emergency loads following a loss of grid supply and off-site power</li> </ul> <p>TC Energy has reviewed the standard mitigation measures issued by IAAC. At this time, TC Energy is committed to implementing the following mitigation measures related to accidents and malfunctions. It is acknowledged that Crown and Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada holds primary regulatory authority over the Project and as such these mitigations would also consider their role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish fire and spill prevention plans</li> <li>• Restrict vehicle and equipment refueling and servicing to designated locations</li> <li>• Provide training to Project employees on accident and malfunction prevention and response</li> <li>• Develop and maintain an accidents and malfunctions response plan including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A description of potential accidents and malfunctions that may cause adverse federal effects during any phase of the Project, including both worst-case and more likely alternate scenarios</li> <li>- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the Proponent, relevant authorities and other parties involved in response efforts.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In the event of an accident or malfunction:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Notify relevant emergency response authorities</li> <li>- Inform Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups as soon as feasible, and IAAC within 24 hours, while providing                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o the date, time, and location of the accident or malfunction</li> <li>o a summary of the accident or malfunction</li> <li>o the substance and quantities released</li> <li>o the relevant authorities notified and involved in the response</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Submit a report to IAAC within 60 days, describing:                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o the incident and its adverse federal effects</li> <li>o measures taken to mitigate the adverse federal effects</li> <li>o feedback from Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups and relevant authorities</li> <li>o residual effects and any additional mitigation or monitoring measures</li> <li>o Steps taken to prevent recurrence</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop a communication plan in consultation with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups for accidents and malfunctions, and including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The geographic areas where Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups would like to receive notifications</li> <li>- The types and thresholds of incidents that would trigger notification</li> <li>- The information to be included in notifications to support community preparedness and response</li> <li>- The method and frequency of notifications, including opportunities for Indigenous group involvement in response efforts</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In addition, notifications and communications in the event of an accident or malfunction will include relevant municipal officials. Potential accident and malfunction scenarios associated with the Project, including failures or upset conditions of Project components, have been and will</p>

**Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues**

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
	continue to be considered as part of Project design development. Risk management will be integrated into the Project through design standards, safety systems, and emergency response planning, informed by a detailed understanding of Project operations, safety procedures, and protocols.
<b>Alternatives to Consider</b>	
Noted importance of considering alternative energy storage technologies and alternative means of carrying out the project, including whether alternative approaches could reduce environmental and social effects.	<p>As identified in the IPD, TC Energy has advanced the Project with a business case based on pumped storage as the identified technology. As Ontario’s electricity system increasingly relies on non-emitting generation sources, including nuclear and renewables, there is a growing need for storage technologies capable of delivering high capacity over long durations to support system reliability and peak demand requirements. Pumped storage offers a proven technology that can meet these requirements at scale, making it well suited to respond to the long-duration storage needs identified by system planners. While the IPD provided an overview of other available energy storage technologies, TC Energy does not intend to advance an assessment of these “alternatives to” and a description of these alternatives was provided in the IPD for information purposes only.</p> <p>If IAAC determines an Impact Statement is required, TC Energy will evaluate “alternative means” of carrying out the following components of the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project location</li> <li>• Lower water source</li> <li>• Spillway</li> <li>• Reservoir design</li> <li>• Location of Switchyard and Offices</li> <li>• Project access road locations</li> <li>• Potential temporary Marine Access</li> <li>• Other alternative means (e.g., construction methodologies, management of excavated materials and location of Temporary Construction Facilities)</li> </ul> <p>This will build on the engineering refinements completed to date, including consideration of feedback from Indigenous engagement and public/stakeholder consultation.</p>
<b>Indigenous and Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement</b>	
Concerns regarding the adequacy, transparency, and effectiveness of engagement activities with Indigenous groups and stakeholders, including information sharing and the extent to which input is meaningfully incorporated into planning and decision-making.	<p>TC Energy continues to actively engage with Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups and will continue to do so throughout the planning, assessment, and implementation phases of the Project. This will include engagement activities to support the review of Impact Statement materials, as applicable and in keeping with Indigenous right-holders and Indigenous groups interests. TC Energy will continue to respond to questions and concerns raised by Indigenous rights-holders and Indigenous groups, and engagement activities will be carried out on an ongoing basis to support information sharing and consideration of Indigenous knowledge and perspectives.</p> <p>Separately, TC Energy has undertaken, and will continue to undertake consultation with the public, stakeholders, and government agencies and other groups as outlined in the IPD, using a variety of methods tailored to Project phase and audience. Consultation activities continue to focus on building relationships with communities, soliciting feedback, responding to questions and providing information regarding the Project.</p>

Table 1 – Response to Summary of Issues

Key Issues / Other Comments	Response
<b>Permitting and Authorizations Recommendations</b>	
Transport Canada be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> , particularly on the necessary permits and authorizations.	<p>TC Energy is committed to obtaining all required federal and provincial permits, licences and authorizations that may be required for the Project. See Table 2 for a description of potential federal and provincial legislation and guidelines that may be applicable to the Project. TC Energy will continue to consult with federal departments and provincial agencies to confirm permitting/approval requirements for construction and operations of the Project.</p> <p>TC Energy continues to develop technical assessments to support permit, licence and authorization applications. Specifically, potential adverse impacts will be addressed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navigation through the <i>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</i> authorization</li> <li>• Fish and fish habitat through the <i>Fisheries Act</i> authorization</li> <li>• Migratory birds through the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act</i> and the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i></li> <li>• Species at risk through the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> (for federal areas) and the <i>Species Conservation Act</i> (for provincial areas)</li> <li>• Surface water through the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> and <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i></li> <li>• Use of provincial public lands through the <i>Public Lands Act</i> and the <i>Environmental Assessment Act</i></li> </ul> <p>TC Energy recognizes that other authorizations will be required for the Project, including for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction and operation of a water power facility on federal lands through the <i>Dominion Water Power Act</i></li> <li>• Ministerial decision under the <i>National Defence Act</i></li> <li>• Explosives through the <i>Explosives Act</i></li> </ul>
Fisheries and Oceans Canada be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> , particularly with regard to the necessary permits and authorizations.	
Environment and Climate Change Canada be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i> and the <i>Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022</i> and the <i>Species at Risk Act</i> , particularly with regard to the necessary permits and authorizations.	
Natural Resources Canada be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Explosives Act</i> , particularly with regard to the necessary permits and authorizations.	
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Dominion Water Power Act</i> , particularly with regard to the necessary permits and authorizations.	
Department of National Defence be consulted to ensure that information necessary to enable a ministerial decision under the <i>National Defence Act</i> is provided.	
Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Climate Change and Parks be consulted to confirm applicable provincial approval requirements under the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> , <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> , and <i>Species Conservation Act, 2025</i> .	
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources be consulted to ensure compliance with the <i>Public Lands Act</i> and the <i>Environmental Assessment Act, 1990</i> .	

Table 2 - OPSP – Primary Facility Guidelines and Standards (excluding Transmission Facilities outside of the ATC-C)

TransCanada Energy Ltd. (**TC Energy**) has developed the following table to provide further clarity on federal and provincial regulatory approvals and/or guidelines that may apply in part or whole to the Project. At this time, Project engineering is ongoing, and as such, the final applicability of any legislation, regulation, or guideline is anticipated to be reflected in the Project’s Impact Statement. Therefore, this document is for informational purposes only. TC Energy further notes that as the Project is a federal undertaking subject to regulation under the *Dominion Water Power Act*, TC Energy will not be seeking approval in whole or in part for any activities within federal jurisdiction from the Province of Ontario. That said, TC Energy intends to follow applicable provincial legislation and guidelines for Project components that are outside of the Department of National Defence’s Army Training Centre – Central (**ATC-C**) and not subject to federal jurisdiction. In addition, TC Energy is assessing the applicability of provincial guidelines for Project activities within ATC-C and subject to federal jurisdiction in instances where there is not an appropriate and applicable federal guideline and the adoption of these provincial guidelines as reference aids, if applicable and appropriate, will be reflected in the Project’s Impact Statement.

OPSP – Primary Facility Guidelines and Standards (excluding Transmission Facilities outside of ATC-C)						
VC/Discipline	Federal Legislation	Federal Guideline or Criteria	Federal Regulatory Approvals	Provincial Legislation and Regulation	Provincial Guideline or Criteria	Provincial Regulatory Approvals
Fish and Fish Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fisheries Act</li> <li>Species at Risk Act (SARA)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DFO codes of practice</li> <li>DFO Fish and fish habitat protection policy statement</li> <li>DFO Standardized General Avoidance and Mitigation Measures</li> <li>Canadian Water Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</li> <li>Canadian Sediment Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</li> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Authorization for the harmful alteration, disruption or destruction of fish habitat</li> <li>SARA Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species Conservation Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> <li>Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) List</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval or registration under the Species Conservation Act</li> </ul>
Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SARA</li> <li>Migratory Birds Convention Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Migratory breeding bird timing windows (ECCC defined)</li> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SARA Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species Conservation Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> <li>Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) List</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval or registration under the Species Conservation Act</li> </ul>
Vegetation and Vegetation Communities (including Wetlands)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SARA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> <li>Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SARA Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Species Conservation Act</li> <li>Conservation Authorities Act (wetlands)</li> <li>O. Reg. 41/24 – Prohibited Activities, Exemptions and Permits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various SAR recovery strategies</li> <li>Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) List</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval or registration under the Species Conservation Act</li> <li>O. Reg 41/24 permit from a Conservation Authority</li> </ul>
Groundwater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Water Resources Act</li> <li>O. Reg. 387/04: Water Taking and Transfer</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provincial Water Quality Objectives (PWQO)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Permit to Take Water (PTTW)</li> </ul>
Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Water Resources Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PWQO</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PTTW</li> </ul>

Table 2 - OPSP – Primary Facility Guidelines and Standards (excluding Transmission Facilities outside of the ATC-C)

OPSP – Primary Facility Guidelines and Standards (excluding Transmission Facilities outside of ATC-C)						
VC/Discipline	Federal Legislation	Federal Guideline or Criteria	Federal Regulatory Approvals	Provincial Legislation and Regulation	Provincial Guideline or Criteria	Provincial Regulatory Approvals
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada Water Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Water Quality Guidelines</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality</li> <li>Canadian Sediment Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>O. Reg. 387/04: Water Taking and Transfer</li> <li>Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECA – Industrial Sewage</li> </ul>
Air Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CCME Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Air Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Air Contaminants Benchmarks List – Standards, Guidelines and Screening Levels for Assessing Point of Impingement Concentrations of Air Contaminants</li> <li>Ontario Regulation 419/05 Air Pollution – Local Air Quality</li> <li>Ambient Air Quality Criteria</li> <li>Screening Levels</li> <li>Upper Risk Thresholds (URTs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) – Air &amp; Noise</li> </ul>
Noise and Vibration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Noise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction equipment noise level - NPC-115 (Construction Equipment), NPC-118 (Motorized Conveyances), NPC-119 (Blasting)</li> <li>Operational noise - NPC-300 (Stationery and Transportation Sources)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECA – Air &amp; Noise</li> </ul>
Terrain, Geology, and Soils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Soil Quality Guidelines for the Protection of Environmental and Human Health</li> <li>DND Contaminated Sites Instruction on Soil Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Protection Act (Soils)</li> <li>O. Reg. 406/19 – On-site and excess soils management (Soils)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
GHG emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canada’s Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Assessment of Climate Change (SACC)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Socio-Economic Context (e.g., navigation, land use, aeronautics, economics)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Navigable Waters Act</li> <li>Aeronautics Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyzing Health, Social and Economical Effects under the Impact Assessment Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval from Navigation Protection Program</li> <li>Aeronautical Obstruction Clearance Approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Lands Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crown Land Work Permit and Land Use Permit/Lease</li> </ul>

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VC/Discipline	Federal Legislation	Federal Guideline or Criteria	Federal Regulatory Approvals	Provincial Legislation and Regulation	Provincial Guideline or Criteria	Provincial Regulatory Approvals
Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyzing Health, Social and Economical Effects under the Impact Assessment Act</li> <li>Interim Guidance Document for the Health Impact Assessment of Designated Projects under the Impact Assessment Act</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Drinking and Recreational Water Quality</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Noise</li> <li>Guidance for Evaluating Human Health Effects in Impact Assessment: Air Quality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>
Archaeological and Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural Property Export and Import Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parks Canada Standards &amp; Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada</li> <li>Guidelines for the Management of Archaeological Resources, and Archaeological Heritage Policy Framework</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ontario Heritage Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Standards and Guidelines for Consultant Archaeologists, Engaging Aboriginal Communities in Archaeology</li> <li>Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties</li> <li>Ontario Heritage Toolkit</li> <li></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter of Acceptance under Part IV (cultural heritage) and Part VI (archaeology)<sup>1</sup></li> </ul>
Indigenous Interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance: Indigenous Knowledge under the Impact Assessment Act</li> <li>Guidance: Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>Policy Context: Assessment of Potential Impacts on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Note this is not an approval, rather an acceptance that the reporting follows the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism standards. The Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism is not an approval authority.