



## Severn Sound Environmental Association

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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**

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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,

<original signed by>

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Julie Cayley, Executive Director

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