



# Ontario Pumped Storage Project

Community Update  
November 2021

## A message from the Project Director



On behalf of the project team, I am eager to provide this community update on our Ontario Pumped Storage Project (OPS). It is important to us to keep people and communities updated, well informed, and active on OPS initiatives.

Through this regular newsletter, we will share information and

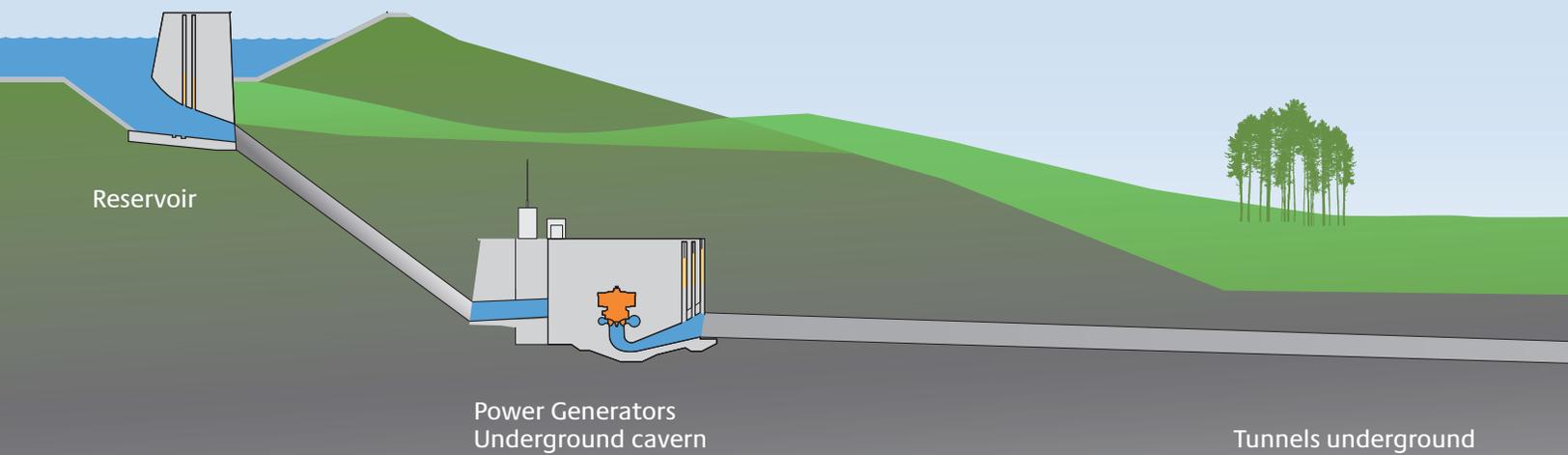
seek feedback as we enter the next phase of development.

As you may be aware, this past July, the Department of National Defence (DND) rendered a decision, which enables continued advancement of OPS at the 4th Canadian Division

Training Centre (4th CDTC) north of Meaford. This approval followed consultations with Indigenous groups and third-party stakeholders, as well as the DND assessing potential impacts to military operations and training.

Our goal from the beginning has been to support a collaborative, inclusive, community-based approach as we seek to develop a needed clean energy storage project that protects Georgian Bay and the local environment. We remain committed to working with Indigenous groups, communities, and stakeholders to understand concerns and to seek input and ideas as OPS advances further. As we move forward collaboratively, please feel free to contact us with any questions. We look forward to working with you.

**John Mikkelsen, P.Eng. M.A.Sc.**  
**Project Director**



Overview of OPS design that incorporates feedback and advice received by Indigenous groups, local residents and community members.

## The Next Step: environmental impact assessment process

Prior to the start of any construction activities or operations, OPS must successfully complete a rigorous, comprehensive and independent environmental assessment process to 1) understand any potential environmental, health, social and economic impacts; 2) identify any potential impacts on Indigenous or Treaty Rights or interests; and 3) demonstrate OPS will be in the public interest.

Given the project's location and proposed transmission connection, it requires assessment approvals from both the Governments of Ontario, and Canada. We anticipate the assessment processes to run concurrently and be coordinated between the responsible federal and provincial agencies. This phase is expected to take about three years and will provide numerous opportunities for OPS and the federal and provincial agencies to share information and receive feedback from interested community members, stakeholders and Indigenous groups. Prior to a final approval, each level of government makes individual decisions on whether OPS is in the public's interest.

For more information on the environmental impact assessment processes, please visit the following websites:

- **Federal process:** [www.canada.ca](http://www.canada.ca) | Impact Assessment Agency of Canada | [Impact Assessment Process Overview](#)
- **Provincial process:** [www.ontario.ca](http://www.ontario.ca) | environment and energy | [environmental permissions](#)

## Inside an Impact Assessment

All possible feedback, questions, and concerns relating to OPS will be assessed for potential impacts. Some of the key components of the environment that are addressed in impact assessments include:

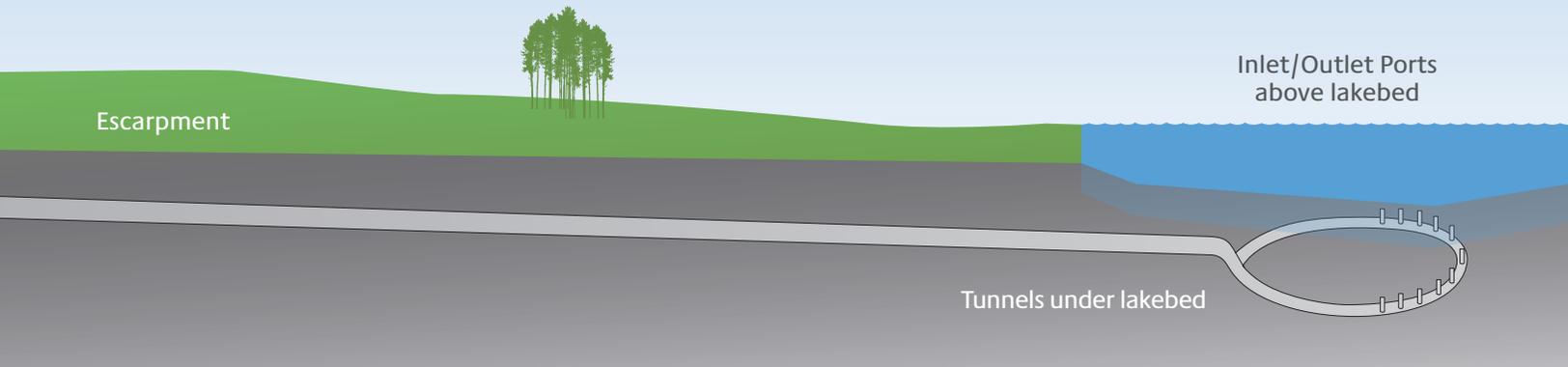
- **Natural Environment:** Air quality, greenhouse gases, noise, terrain and soils, surface water, groundwater, vegetation and wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, fish and fish habitat, species at risk
- **Socio-Economic Environment:** community infrastructure and services, employment and economy, land and resource use, recreational use, human health and community safety, visual aesthetics
- **Archaeology and Cultural Heritage**
- **Indigenous Traditional Knowledge, Land Use and Rights**

How feedback, questions and concerns are brought forward is through the independent environmental impact assessment processes that the federal and provincial governments oversee. Over the next several years, we will be collecting information and advice in order to make informed decisions on all aspects of the project. Regulators will also be holding opportunities for interested people to submit comments and questions directly to them. We look forward to providing more details on timing and different opportunities to have your say when they become available.

## Attention Local Businesses!

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the local Meaford and area economy, we've partnered with Georgian College to launch a new, multi-stage project to identify local trades and service providers within Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties who could serve the needs of OPS.

To make us aware of your local business and learn more about opportunities, please go to [www.ontariopumpedstorage.com/business-opportunities](http://www.ontariopumpedstorage.com/business-opportunities)



Please visit our virtual Open Houses November 25th or 30th to learn more.

### In the Field Studying the Environment

Collecting data now provides an opportunity to understand the environment in its current condition so we can determine what measures are needed to avoid and minimize any impacts.

While there is a large amount of available data and mapping, firsthand studies are needed to fully understand the local conditions. We have begun to conduct data collection for the aquatic environment, including fish, fish habitat and water quality. We are also collecting data on land for vegetation, wetlands, wildlife and wildlife habitat, groundwater, archaeology and cultural heritage, as well as soil sampling.

We started these studies in 2020 and some will likely continue until 2023. The technical data gathered, along with information and feedback provided by local residents, Indigenous groups and environmental agencies will be used to refine our design and will be the basis for the federal and provincial regulatory assessments.

### Community engagement remains key – upcoming Open Houses

To continue our community discussions, we will host virtual open houses on **November 25 and 30** to share information regarding the environmental assessment and impact assessment processes, including the studies planned, anticipated timelines, and opportunities for further engagement and input throughout the processes. We appreciate your input and want the project to reflect the concerns and priorities of the community.

**Please visit [www.ontariopumpedstorage.com](http://www.ontariopumpedstorage.com) to learn how to register for the Virtual Open Houses.**

We encourage you to attend this event to learn more about the project, ask questions and provide your feedback.

How will we help solve the energy supply problem

**1,000 MW**  
**OF ENERGY STORAGE**

**8,000 MWH = 8 HOURS OF 1,000 MW OF ELECTRICITY**



Enough to Power  
**1 MILLION**  
Ontario Homes  
for 8 Hours



STORES EXCESS  
ELECTRICITY  
AT NIGHT



SUPPLIES STORED  
ELECTRICITY  
DURING THE DAY

**1,000 MW**  
**OF CLEAN**  
**EMISSION-FREE**  
**POWER CAPACITY**



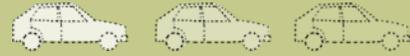
**Reuse**  
AND RECYCLE  
EXCESS ELECTRICITY



**Reduce**  
RELIANCE ON NATURAL GAS  
POWER PRODUCTION



Significantly lower GHGs  
**500,000**  
TONNES PER YEAR



EQUIVALENT TO TAKING **150,000 CARS** OFF THE ROAD

## **Our commitment to the environment**

STUDIES AND  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



## **Design in the Public Eye**

### **Changes Reflect Community Input**

From the time OPS was originally planned, we have benefited from the knowledge, advice, and questions provided from Indigenous communities, residents and community members. This local input has helped evolve the project's design; which we believe begins to address many of the questions raised about the local environment and Georgian Bay.

### **We hear your concerns about the possible impacts to fish and are moving forward with design changes:**

The water intake/outlet will be offshore in deeper water, where there is expected to be fewer fish present. Tunnels installed beneath the lakebed will access deep water, thus avoiding impacts to the shoreline and near-shore fish habitat. The intake/outlet structures will be raised off the lakebed and incorporate fixed screens that will further protect any fish present.

### **We hear of the need to protect the land and the Niagara Escarpment and have improved our design:**

We plan to build the powerhouse deep underground so it will not be visible from the shoreline. By utilizing tunneling and mining technology, we will avoid disturbing the escarpment and the adjacent land protecting the associated animals, plants, habitat and soils.

### **We hear the expectation to protect archaeological sites and we agree:**

By building all the project facilities underground using tunnels, we avoid land disturbances that could impact any important archaeological sites and other cultural features.

### **We hear your water-based environmental concerns:**

The revised design reduces the speed of the water withdrawn and released, thus reducing the potential to cause issues with water clarity and quality. The results: no shoreline or nearshore structures, no structures visible in the water, protection of fish and fish habitat, as well as maintenance of water clarity.

### **We hear your worries about overland transmission lines:**

We are proposing an underwater transmission route from the project site to a location near Wasaga Beach and continuing underground to the Stayner Transformer Station.

**The design is expected to continue to evolve based on Indigenous, resident and community feedback; our feasibility studies; and the environmental impact assessments.**

### **We'd like to hear from you**

For more information on the project, visit [www.ontariopumpedstorage.com](http://www.ontariopumpedstorage.com)

If you have any questions or comments about the project, please reach out.

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