

Energy East pipeline: all risk, no reward

TransCanada's proposed Energy East pipeline would be the largest tar sands pipeline proposed yet, spanning 4,600 kilometres, with the capacity to transport 1.1 million barrels of oil every day.¹

This controversial project is all risk and little reward.

ALL RISK

Pipelines spill: TransCanada's pipeline safety record in Canada is bad and is getting worse. The portion of the existing natural gas pipeline from Saskatchewan through Ontario that will be converted as part of the Energy East project is up to 40-years-old and has ruptured nine times since 1991. Two whistleblowers have come forward with serious allegations against TransCanada for not following Canadian pipeline regulations.²

Threats to waterways: Energy East would ship oil, including diluted bitumen, which presents heightened risks when spilled in or near waterways. Heavy bitumen sinks more quickly in water, making it harder to contain and cleanup. The recent 250,000 litre oil spill in the North Saskatchewan River travelled more than 500 kms downstream, forcing the closure of drinking water systems for more than 70,000 people. That amount of oil would flow through Energy East every two minutes, making a spill even more dangerous.³

Ignoring Indigenous rights. The pipeline would cross through the land of more than 50 First Nations that have the right to free, prior and informed consent, including the right to say "no." Many First Nations along the pipeline route are expressing concerns or opposing the project. The Assembly of First Nations Quebec-Labrador (AFNQL) are officially opposed to Energy East. Ontario First Nations leaders have called for a halt to the National Energy Board's review of the project because they have not been properly consulted and First Nations that are part of Treaty 3 territory (near Kenora) and the Maliseet First Nations in New Brunswick have expressed serious concerns about the project.⁴

Tar sands expansion is bad for the climate. Filling the Energy East pipeline would generate 32 million tonnes of carbon pollution. This is like adding 7 million cars on the road. Tar sands expansion would make meaningful cuts to our climate pollution impossible.⁵

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An export pipeline. Up to 1 million barrels of Energy East's 1.1 million barrels per day are destined for export to international markets like the U.S., Europe and India.⁶ While TransCanada claims Energy East would replace oil imports to Atlantic Canada, the company is relying on old data.⁷

Overestimating jobs. TransCanada has a track record of overestimating the number of jobs generated by their pipeline projects.⁸ An independent report for the Ontario Energy Board,⁹ and another focussing on Quebec,¹⁰ find that TransCanada's job promises and projections for local economic benefits are likely over estimated.

Tar sands boom and bust. There is much more to the Canadian economy than the tar sands. In fact, conventional oil production accounts for just 2.3 per cent of the Canadian economy.¹¹ The time has come to end further tar sands expansion and move to sustainable energy solutions, which are readily available today.

For more information about how the Energy East pipeline is all risk, no reward, visit www.noenergyeast.ca.

1. The Energy East pipeline is a multi-use pipeline transporting diluted bitumen and conventional oil from the tar sands, as well as Bakken fracked crude, and other Prairies produced crude. A large and growing portion would be from the tar sands where the majority of projected production growth is.
2. Council of Canadians, When the pipeline spills... <http://canadians.org/too-risky>
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11. International Monetary Fund, Canada Selected Issues, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr1428.pdf>

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