

# Looking for Heroes?

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Thursday, February 19, 2015

<http://politicsrespun.org/2015/02/looking-for-heroes/>

**The largest proposed oil pipeline in North America**

**HOW MUCH OIL WILL THE PIPELINE CARRY?**  
**1.1 MILLION BARRELS/DAY**

**2.98 million**  
Number of beer kegs the Energy East pipeline could fill with oil every day.

**781,250**  
Number of bath tubs the Energy East pipeline could fill with oil every day.

**1.3 million barrels**  
Amount that could be exported by one tanker leaving Cacouna, QC.

**2.2 million barrels**  
Amount that could be exported by one tanker leaving Saint John, NB.

**OIL FOR EXPORT**  
 Energy East is an **export pipeline**, NOT a made-in-Canada energy solution.  
 Up to **90%** of Energy East's oil is likely to be exported unrefined.  
 Up to **1 million barrels per day** could be exported unrefined.  
 TransCanada wants to build **two export tanker terminals** for Energy East.

**Energy East**  
**Our Risk**  
**Their Reward**

**THE PIPELINE PLAN**  
**4,600 km**  
Total length of the Energy East pipeline.

**3,000 km**  
Amount of natural gas pipeline TransCanada wants to convert to carry tar sands oil.

**1,500+ km**  
Amount of new pipeline to be built through Quebec and New Brunswick.

**42 inches**  
Diameter of the pipeline (106 cm).

**41 years old**  
Age of the natural gas pipeline to be converted, TransCanada 100-4, which was built in sections, starting in 1973.

**\$12 billion**  
Estimated cost of the pipeline.

**2 massive export tanker terminals**  
TransCanada wants to build one in Cacouna, QC and one in Saint John, NB to ship nearly all of Energy East's oil out of Canada.

**COMPARING PIPES**

<b>ENERGY EAST</b> 1.1 million barrels/day	<b>TRANSCANADA KEYSTONE XL</b> 830,000 barrels/day	<b>ENERGISE NORTHERN GATEWAY</b> 525,000 barrels/day
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**WHO BEARS THE RISK?**

<b>75</b> Communities put at risk of oil spills (incl. Regina, Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Quebec City and Saint John).	<b>52</b> Independent First Nations and Métis communities directly located along the pipeline's proposed route.	<b>100s</b> of lakes and rivers threatened by Energy East, putting the drinking water of millions at risk. Energy East would cross the Red, Mattagami, Rideau, and St. Lawrence rivers.
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**SPILL, BABY, SPILL:**  
**TransCanada has a poor safety record**

**1 in 7 years** Frequency that TransCanada projected Keystone would spill.

**12** Number of spills in the first year of Keystone's first phase of operation. One of the worst first year spill rates on record.

**8** Number of major ruptures, explosions or fires on the natural gas pipeline (between 1991-2013). TransCanada wants to convert to carry oil for Energy East.

**January 2014:**

<b>Explosion</b> involving a natural gas pipeline on the same network.	<b>12 hours</b> Time it took to put out the fire from the explosion.	<b>4,000</b> Number of people without heat for 24 hours in -20 weather due to the explosion.
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**Our Climate**  
 Carbon pollution associated with Energy East would be equivalent to putting **7 million new cars** on the road.

**BELUGAS**  
 1,000 Beluga whales live in the St. Lawrence River.  
 The deep-water St. Lawrence Estuary belugas are at risk of extinction.  
 Energy East would put the belugas' habitat at risk.

**environmental defence**  
 RejectEnergyEast.ca

I've been watching The Book of Negroes this week. I have no words. I only recognize justice, integrity, brutality, acknowledgement, witnessing, story telling and a myriad of other foggy responses.

It's easy to also ponder qualities of heroes.

Then I read this from earlier this week, and nodded. Do you get it?

## Anishinabe Women Protest Energy East Pipeline on Family Day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2015

**‘Protect the Water, For Future Generations’: Message being shared today with local families, starting at Market Square at noon.**

Kenora—Dozens of Anishinabe Women, their families, and supporters converge today on Market Square at noon to deliver a message against the proposed Energy East Pipeline that will deliver tarsands oil right through the City and through all of Treaty 3 (and other First Nations) Territory.

Today’s Family Day demonstration, with a focus on protecting the water for future generations, is intended to be highly visible—with drumming, singing, placards and speeches—and to inform and engage the local public about the immense threats posed by the likelihood of oil spills to local water sources, ecosystems, animal habitat, and human health, as well as broader environmental impacts from proposed tarsands expansion.

Fawn Wapioke is Chief of Shoal Lake #39. She says, “I am deeply concerned about the pipeline and believe that our responsibility is to the land, the water, and future of our People. Our responsibility is upholding the law of the land to ensure survival of our Mother Earth.”

TransCanada, speaking to the possibility of a major oil spill in the area, has said that it would take a minimum 22 minutes to shut down the Energy East pipeline in case of a leak. Any spill from the pipeline could allow as much as 2.7 million litres of oil to spill in that time.

It wouldn’t be the first major industrial spill in the region.

“Being from Grassy Narrows, I know firsthand how damage to the water can poison our families and our kids, not just now, but in the future, too,” said Corrisa Swain, a Youth from Grassy Narrows where families continue to watch newborn children exhibit the brutal symptoms of mercury poisoning, a Dryden pulp and paper mill having dumped over 9000 kgs of Mercury into the English and Wabigoon River System over 40 years ago. “We know from our own experience how these kinds of projects can have terrible impacts on future generations and how unlikely it is that government or companies will ever clean up afterwards,” says Swain.

The environmental impacts from the Energy East Pipeline also extend far beyond the local effects on the Winnipeg River, Lake of the Woods and local ecosystems.

“The project is a climate nightmare, demanding as much as a 40% expansion of tarsands extraction, releasing millions of tonnes more carbon pollution, just when we’ve been told that 75% of tarsands oil needs to stay in the ground to avoid catastrophic climate impacts in the next century,” said Teika Newton, a representative of Kenora Transitions Initiative (TIK), a Kenora-based environmental advocacy group. “There is also the reality that tarsands extraction, like pipeline spills, have terrible impacts on downstream communities across the continent,” Newton says.

Trancanada's new pipeline project has already been opposed across the entirety of its route, from local tarsands impacted communities to the Mohawk community of Kanasatake and Mi'qmaq communities on the East Coast. In Treaty 3 Territory, Grand Chief Warren White has already clearly stated that the pipeline will not carry tarsands oil across the territory without express consent from affected First Nations. Local grassroots communities have echoed those sentiments.

"The Energy East Pipeline is going to affect us all, we together as Peoples need to prevent this project. For the sake of the water, wildlife, and land," says Alicia Kejick, a Youth from Shoal Lake #39. "For our Peoples and future grandchildren," Kejick says, "it is momentous that we protect what is ours to begin with. We will be out on Family Day, not just to raise awareness, but to speak for those who can't."

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