

BRIEFING NOTE

June 12, 2020

Opposing TMX

BACKGROUND

Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMX)

On August 31, 2018, the Federal Government of Canada purchased the controversial \$4.5 billion Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project (TMX) from Kinder Morgan¹. If completed, this expansion will triple the current oil pipeline's capacity from 300,000 barrels per day to 890,000 barrels per day². Two months prior to the approval, Canada's Changing Climate Report found that Canada is warming at twice the rate of other countries due to climate change³. The project was later approved on June 18, 2019 – one day after The House of Commons declared a national climate emergency in recognition of Canada's commitment to meeting the carbon reduction outlined in the Paris Agreement⁴. Presently, the cost of the project has soared to \$12.6 billion⁵.

Despite years of pushback from multiple First Nations (on whose territories the path of the pipeline expansion is located), environmental organizations, the City of Burnaby, and the BC Provincial Government⁶, the Federal Government is continuously contradicting its own commitment to reconciliation⁷ and tackling climate change, and has disregarded the safety of Burnaby residents by going ahead with the project.

¹"It's Official—Trudeau Government Now Owns Trans Mountain Pipeline After Kinder Morgan Shareholders Approve Sale."

²Al Jazeera, "Nations Divided: Mapping Canada's Pipeline Battle."

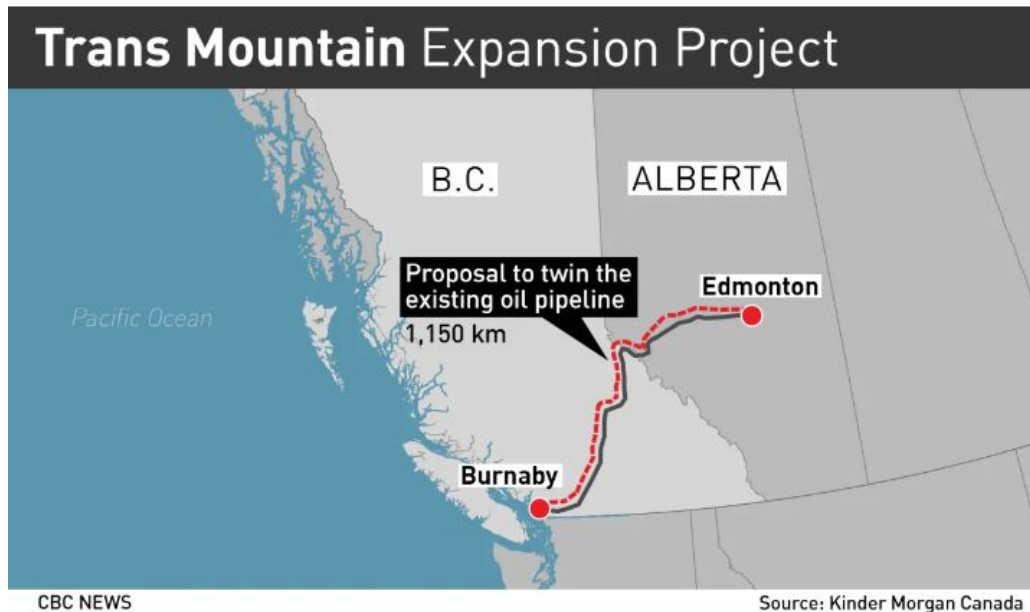
³Canada, "Canada's Climate Is Warming Twice As Fast As Global Average - Canada.Ca."

⁴Rauhala, "On Monday, Canada Declared A 'Climate Emergency.' On Tuesday, It Approved A Pipeline Expansion.."

⁵"Cost Of Trans Mountain Expansion Soars To \$12.6B | CBC News."

⁶"Timeline: Key Dates In The History Of The Trans Mountain Pipeline | CBC News."

⁷"Federal Court's Trans Mountain Ruling Betrays Principles Of Reconciliation | The Tyee."



Tank Farm Safety

The Burnaby Terminal Tank Farm facility at which the transported oil will be stored for distribution to two local terminals – the Parkland refinery, and the Westridge Marine Terminal – is located right off the intersection of Gagliardi Intersection. As part of the TMX project, one tank from the existing 13 will be demolished and 14 new tanks will be built, bringing it to a total of 26⁸. This will significantly increase the safety risk of the Burnaby Mountain community which includes SFU (see fig.1). Notably, Burnaby Deputy Fire Chief Chris Bowcock conducted a risk analysis and found most, if not all parts of the tank farm expansion, to constitute a high safety risk to the surrounding communities⁹ (see fig. 2 & 3). Similarly, SFU also released a report of Evaluation of Risk to SFU which had the same findings.¹⁰ If a fire does erupt, it could take up to 6 hours to coordinate an emergency response with Trans Mountain's own firefighting team being located in Kamloops, and the Burnaby Fire Department not having any jurisdiction inside the fenceline of the facility¹¹.

Consequently, if fires are not extinguished and contained in a timely manner, a hazardous explosion called a "Boilover" may occur. "Boilover is an explosive discharge of molten crude

⁸ "Burnaby Terminal."

⁹ Bowcock, TRANS MOUNTAIN TANK FARM TACTICAL RISK ANALYSIS.

¹⁰ PGL Environmental Consultants, Trans Mountain Expansion Project (TMEP): Evaluation Of Risk To SFU.

¹¹ "Emergency Response At Trans Mountain'S Burnaby Tank Farm Could Take 6 Hours: Report."

oil from the tank to all potential areas inside of 10 - 15 times the diameter of the storage tank⁹. In addition to a fire, the tank farm is located at a lower elevation than SFU, meaning that smoke and toxic fumes (such as Sulphur Dioxide and Hydrogen Sulfide) would spread to the Burnaby campus (see fig. 3). The potential health effects of high exposure to Hydrogen Sulfide include, but are not limited to: extremely rapid unconsciousness, falling into coma, and death⁹. There have been many similar tank farm facilities around the world that had caught fire and exploded¹²¹³¹⁴, and experts have argued that such a project would never be approved in the UK or the European Union. Lastly in 2016, NDP candidate Sven Robinson successfully unearthed a previously suppressed audit report that found the tank farm facility has failed to meet "industry best practices"¹⁵ which contradicts Trans Mountain's claim that their facility "are designed and operated to industry best practices"¹⁶.

If a fire spread to the adjacent forest, access routes to/from SFU and infrastructure at the UniverCity and on campus could be compromised. This is summarized graphically below.

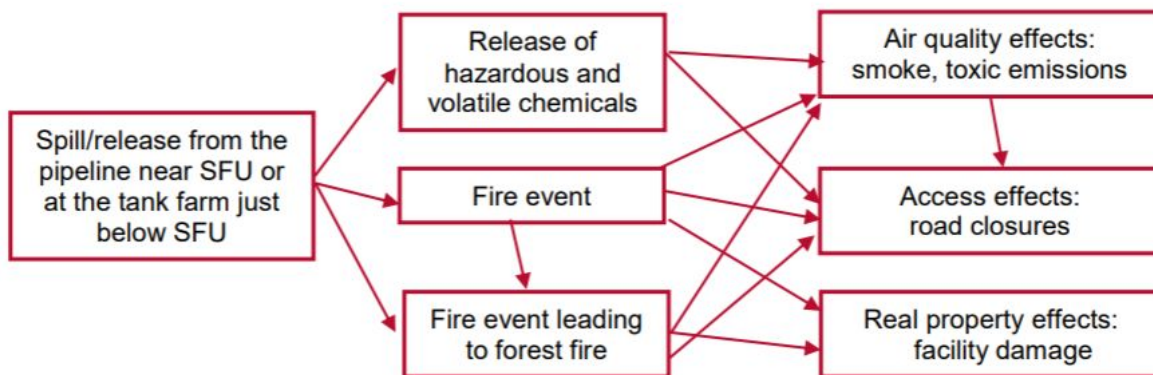


Fig. 1. Chain of events that increase risk to the Burnaby Mountain community.
http://world.350.org/vancouver/files/2017/02/5_SFU_TMEP-Risk-Summary-PGL.pdf

¹²Hirsch, "Buncefield Depot Fire: Total Faces £750M Damages Bill."

¹³"Massive Fire At Crockett Fuel Facility Contained, Shelter In Place Lifted."

¹⁴"Fuel Storage Tank Fire Near Brazil's Santos Port Enters Fourth Day."

¹⁵Cruickshank, "Portions Of A Fire Safety Audit Of The Trans Mountain Pipeline Were Rejected By Canada'S Pipeline Regulator."

¹⁶Davies, "Letter: Trans Mountain Says Nothing To Fear At Burnaby Tank Farm."



Figure. 2. High fire impact potential areas. Bowcock, TRANS MOUNTAIN TANK FARM TACTICAL RISK ANALYSIS.

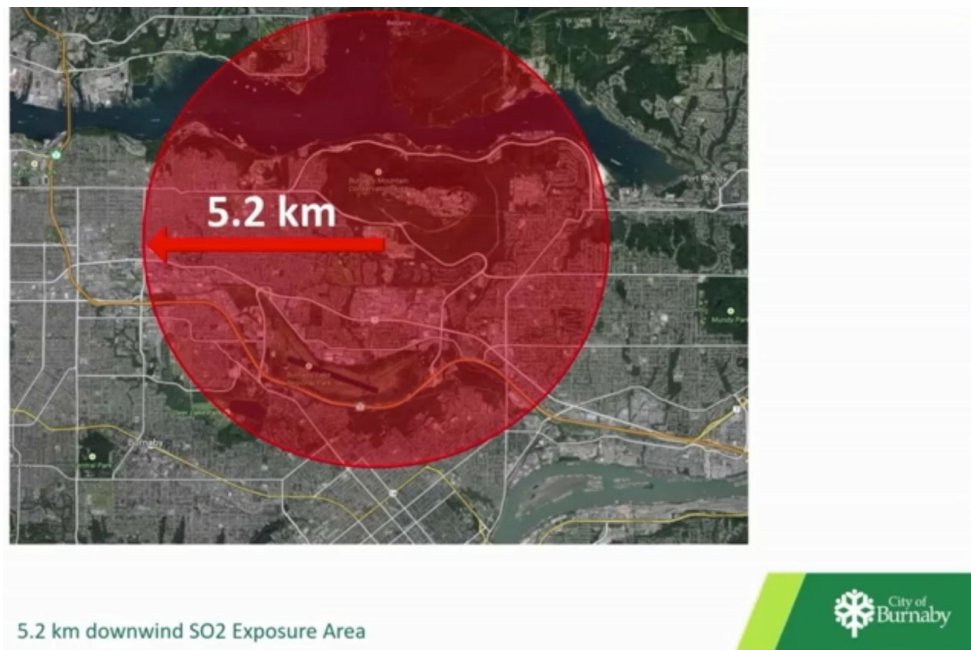


Figure. 3. Possibility of SO2 exposure area. Bowcock, TRANS MOUNTAIN TANK FARM TACTICAL RISK ANALYSIS.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Only 3.6% of the Trans Mountain Pipeline has been built, and the remainder of the expansion requires \$10 billion to complete¹⁴. The COVID-19 pandemic has also seen negative oil prices and exposed the instability and decline of the fossil fuel industry. So, rather than expanding a pipeline to transport unclean energy, these taxpayer dollars could be better invested in a more just and sustainable future. This means halting construction of fossil fuel infrastructure during the pandemic, not bailing out the fossil fuel sector (which would rather lay off workers and maintain the salaries of its CEOs), and investing in green energy while ensuring a just transition for workers¹⁷.

¹⁷IN THE FACE OF COVID-19, GOVERNMENTS HAVE A CHOICE: RESILIENT SOCIETIES OR FOSSIL FUEL BAILOUTS?.

RECOMMENDATION

In light of the dangers that the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project poses to the SFU Burnaby community, I recommend that the SFSS work with student unions in lobbying the Federal Government to stop the expansion and reinvest billions of taxpayer money into a Just Recovery¹⁸. As well, I recommend that the SFSS support any SFU student groups that are organizing against TMX, and to educate our membership on the risks of the Tank Farm. Finally, I recommend that the SFSS deliver an open letter to the Federal Government of Canada with the support of other student unions across Canada and the United States, as the oil to be transported by the pipeline is set to be shipped across the border, and materials that are being used to construct the pipeline are imported from the United States. In this way, the SFSS would be letting the Canadian federal government know that the youth demand a stop to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project.

MOTION

Whereas the Board of Directors has taken a stance against the Expansion Project (TMX) when it was previously owned by Kinder Morgan back in 2014

Whereas in October 2019, the Board of Directors passed a motion in support of calling on government bodies at all levels to take more immediate and impactful actions to address the ongoing climate crisis and any efforts in the advancement of climate justice;

Whereas the TMX project poses substantial safety risks to our membership;

Be it resolved that the Board of Directors release a statement to reaffirm opposition, and take public action and advocacy against the TMX Project.

Be it further resolved that the Board of Directors work with student climate justice advocacy groups to deliver a letter to the student unions across Canada and the United States to sign on in support of calling on the Federal Government of Canada to terminate the Trans Mountain Expansion project in pursuit of a Just Recovery.

Be it further resolved for the SFSS to make and provide any campaign materials related to the advocacy against TMX.

¹⁸ "We Demand A Just Recovery From The COVID-19 Pandemic."

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