

**Enbridge New Line 3 Pipeline  
Comments to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**

**Comments are due by Wednesday November 22, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.**

Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

**Email:** publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

**Online:** mn.gov/puc/line3/participate/comment

**U.S. Mail:** Scott Ek  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**Fax:** 651-297-7073

Please include the Commission's Docket Numbers 14-916 for the Certificate of Need and 15-137 for the Route and OAH (Office of Administrative Hearings) Docket Numbers 65-2500-32764 for Certificate of Need and 65-2500-33377 for the Route in the subject line of all communications.

**Timeline for Key Events and Decisions by the PUC:**

1. Draft environmental impact (DEIS) has been completed.
2. Final environmental impact statement (FEIS) – decision to accept will be made by the PUC December 11, 2017.
3. Evidentiary hearings are being conducted by the administrative law judge and will conclude November 15, 2017.
4. November 22, 2017 last day for PUC to accept comments from the general public.
5. February 28, 2018, the administrative law judge will make a finding of facts; make conclusions and recommendations to the PUC.
6. April 30, 2018 (anticipated) final decision by the PUC.

**General Comments:**

- The PUC will have one or two decisions to make. If they decide to grant the Certificate of Need (CON), then they will need to make a second decision on the route the new pipeline will follow.
- Both the CON and the route permit have different criteria that have been established by Minnesota rules and statutes. The administrative law judge (ALJ) and the PUC will use these rules and statutes to make recommendations and decisions regarding the pipeline.

### **Certificate of Need:**

PUC Docket # CN-14-916 and OAH Docket # 65-2500-32764.

1. Criteria for Certificate of Need – found in the following:
  - Minnesota Statute 216B.243
  - Minnesota Administrative Rule 7853.0130 (part C)
  
2. The following are some ideas, topics and information to use for comments that relates to the criteria in the above statute and administrative rule:
  - There is an increase in the use of solar and wind power.
  - More efficient products are available to consumers that conserve energy.
  - Since 2004 the demand for oil is down 14 -19% in Minnesota.
  - The year 2023 is projected as being the peak demand for oil.
  - Canada’s National Energy Board is predicting that fossil fuel will decline after 2019. This is much sooner than earlier predictions.
  - On October 13, 2017 Enbridge received approval from the U.S. State Department to increase the carrying capacity in Line 67 to 890,000 barrels of tar sand oil per day. Line 67 was built in 2008-2009 and carries tar sand oil from Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin. The line is named the Alberta Clipper and crosses Northern Minnesota in a pipeline corridor that contains 6 pipelines.
  - The “Canadian Press” reported that there has been some new technology discovered that converts heavy oil (tar sand or bitumen) into pill-sized pellets that can be transported in gondola rail cars in a much safer way. The heavy oil can be transported anywhere there are railroad tracks. This process was discovered at the University of Calgary by a professor named Ian Gates and his assistant. The Canadian National Railroad is also working a similar process that encases the tar sand/bitumen in a polymer coating. The railroad has applied for a patent and has named this product “CanaPax”. Both of these processes are still in the experimental stages but certainly look promising as a much safer way to transport the tar sand. This technology could supplement the current pipeline system and eliminate the need for new pipelines and new pipeline corridors.
  - The Minnesota Department of Commerce has conducted a study and has stated Enbridge’s new pipeline across northern Minnesota is not needed and that the 60-year-old Line 3 that is currently in operation should be shut down. The Commerce Department found that Enbridge has enough capacity in its six-pipeline corridor in Minnesota to meet long-term demand without a new Line 3. This was reported in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Tuesday, September 12, 2017.
  - With the minimal benefit to the citizens of Minnesota, why should the state take all the associated environmental and socioeconomic risks with a new tar sand pipeline running through the water-rich environment of the lake county. In the lake country, tourism and recreation are a very large economic factors that needs to be considered. In 2013, leisure and

hospitality spending in the four counties of Crow Wing, Aitkin, Cass and Hubbard was \$22,623,656.00 in sales tax revenue and 6,897 FTE jobs.

- What is the economics of tar sand, how much does it cost to mine? How much water is used to mine it? How much carbon dioxide does it produce? Is it the world's most polluting and expensive to produce? International lenders such as French bank BNP Parabus, Dutch bank ING and the Royal Bank of Scotland are shutting down any investments in Canadian tar sand oil according to a Letter to the Editor in Echo Journal two weeks ago. In the same letter it mentions Royal Dutch Shell, Marathon, Statoil and Koch Industries are existing tar sands oil production by either selling off or writing down their tar sands assets.

**Route Permit:**

PUC Docket # PPL- 15-137 and OAH Docket #-65-2500-33377.

1. Criteria for Route Permit – found in the following:
  - Minnesota Statute 216G.02.
  - Minnesota Administrative Rule 7852.1900.
2. The following are some ideas, topics and information to use for comments that relate to the criteria in the above statute and administrative rule:
  - Enbridge is requesting a 750-foot construction corridor for the new pipeline. This is through the water-rich environment of the lake country. How many trees will need to be removed? How many wetlands will be disturbed or destroyed? The pipeline should not be located in the water-rich environment of the lake country. Alternate route SA-04 is an option that is on tillable soil and already in an existing pipeline corridor. SA-04 offers a much more safer and accessible route.
  - The proposed pipeline is in a utility corridor with a high voltage power line. Does Enbridge have a “Stray-current Mitigation System” for the pipeline? When a pipeline is co-located with high voltage power line, the stray-voltage can cause corrosion in the pipeline. The risk is increased when the pipeline is in a water-rich environment.
  - Aromatic hydrocarbons, such as benzene and toluene, are added to the bitumen (tar sand) to thin the bitumen so it can be transported in a pipeline. When there is a spill in water the hydrocarbons either evaporate or find there way into the water column or water table. Once in the water table they are transported with the water. The bitumen usually sinks to the bottom in water and is difficult to remove and in some cases impossible to remove. The National Academy of Science Report on Diluted Bitumen (tar sands oil) final finding is “ diluted bitumen is virtually impossible to clean out of a water-based environment”.
  - There will be pipeline spills. “High Country News” reported June 15, 2015, that seven million gallons of oil was spilled in more than 1,000 pipeline leaks from 2010 – 2015. They received this information from the

“Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration”. The Keystone Pipeline that was commissioned in 2010 reportedly recorded 35 tar sand oil leaks in the first year of operation. One of those leaks was a 21,000-gallon leak.

- According to “Inside Climate News” - from 2002-2012, the general public reported 22% of oil pipeline spills. Pipeline spill/leak detectors don’t always work and then when a spill is detected or reported, how much oil is spilled before the pipeline is shut down?
- Enbridge had a major tar sand oil spill of 850,000 gallons in Michigan in July 2010 that polluted nearly 35 miles of the Kalamazoo River. Clean-up costs of \$1.2 Billion plus. Something to think about, Lake Mitchell is 3-4 miles and Eagle Lake is 5-6 miles south of the proposed pipeline. Daggett Brook crosses over the proposed pipeline and flows south through Mitchell and Eagle and ends in the Whitefish Chain. Both Mitchell and Eagle need to be on the threaten list of lakes. How many other threaten lakes and wetlands are along the 337 miles of the proposed pipeline?
- Some other major spills Enbridge has had are Cohasset, Mn. 2002, Clearbrook, Mn. 2007, Romeoville, Ill. 2010, Cushing, Okla. 2013, plus others.
- The pipeline industry has a poor record with regards to pipeline oil spills.

#### **General Comments:**

1. The administrative law judge and the commissioners from the PUC will be making their findings, recommendations and decisions based of the facts that are presented to them.
2. Take some time and check out the statutes and the Administrative Rules for both the CON and the Route Permit.
3. To submit your comments, select a couple of topics/ideas from the CON and Route Permit lists or use your own ideas. Consider adding some more factual information to each and write up your comments. Also, list references that you use in your comments.
4. More information can be found at the following
  - Friends of the Headwaters website. (FOH has a nice set of maps).
  - Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) website.
  - Public Utilities Commission (PUC) website  
[Mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3](http://Mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/line3)
5. It is important that the PUC receives comments from the public on the pipeline, please consider taking the time to submit your comments.

**“There are alternatives to oil, but there are no alternatives water”!**

**“In the lake country a barrel of water is worth more than a barrel of oil”!  
(Quote from “Friends of the Headwaters”).**