

Enbridge Pipeline Update

Need your help to respond to Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that was released by the Public Utilities Commission in May 2017.

The following information was provided at a workshop on Tuesday June 27, 2017 on the proposed Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline. Tom Watson, president of The Whitefish Property Owners Association (WAPOA), and Richard Smith, president of The Friends of the Headwaters (FOH), were the presenters.

Background:

- In Minnesota the pipeline would run 340 miles from Kittson County on the West to Carlton/St. Louis Counties on the East. There 192 water crossing on this route. The final destination is Juliet, Illinois with a stop in Superior, Wisconsin.
- The 36 inch diameter pipe and would carry 760,000 barrels of crude oils per day.
- This new line 3 replaces old line 3 that is in an established pipeline corridor that contains 4-5 other pipelines and is located approximately 60 miles north of Fifty Lakes. The new line 3 would follow some already established pipelines but would also establish a new pipeline corridor.
- The new pipeline corridor would run 92 miles in the Pine River Watershed. Fifty Lakes is in the Pine River Watershed. The new pipeline corridor would be located approximately 4 – 6 miles north of Fifty Lakes. The new pipeline corridor would only contain the new line 3. Maybe more pipelines later?
- The new pipeline corridor would co-locate with a utility corridor that continues high voltage power lines. More information is needed in the DEIS regarding co-locating oil pipelines with high voltage power lines. What are the effects of stray voltage from the power lines on a pipeline?
- There are makes lakes, swamps and marshes between the proposed pipeline and Fifty Lakes. The proposed pipeline also crosses Daggett Brook. The water table has a southwesterly flow from the proposed pipeline corridor. Any oil spill could affect the lakes and water table in Fifty Lakes. A National Academy of Science finding states tar sand oil should not be transported through a water – rich environment and we live in a water – rich environment.
- Enbridge plans to use the new line 3 to transport tar sand oil. When tar sand oil or diluted bitumen spills, it sinks and is nearly impossible to remove or clean up.
- Enbridge has a system wide spill average of 1.8 spills per week. Some spills are slow leaks and are not discovered immediately.

More information:

1. "Friends of the Headwaters" has recommended an alternate pipeline corridor that would transport the tar sand oil from Alberta, Canada to Juliet, Illinois. This is an established corridor and already carries 4 -5 other pipelines. This pipeline corridor is located in a less water - rich environment. Enbridge has 50% ownership in this corridor.

www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org for more information, maps and more detailed information on The Enbridge Line 3 Project.

2. Attached are "Tips for Commenting on the Enbridge Line 3 Project"

The author is Janet Hill from Big Sandy Lake, which is located in Aitkin County. The attachment contains links to many pertinent websites and information/directions to submit comments to the PUC.

This is a busy time of the year for everyone. Time with families and friends are important to all of us. But, we live in a water - rich environment that does not need a pipeline carrying tar sand oil only 4 - 6 miles north of Fifty Lakes. The PUC needs to hear from all of us on this project! Please take the time to submit comments to the PUC. Comments are due July 10, 2017.

Note: I will forward any additional information on this important issue.

Thanks,
Ken Neihart