

DEIS MEETINGS - 14-916 15-137

GRAND RAPIDS (CONTINUED) - JUNE 6, 2017 - 6:00

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy,
Limited Partnership for a Certificate of Need for the
Line 3 Pipeline Replacement Project in Minnesota from the
North Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

PUC DOCKET NO: CN-14-916
OAH DOCKET NO: 65-2500-32764

In the Matter of the Application of Enbridge Energy,
Limited Partnership for a Route Permit for the Line 3
Pipeline Replacement Project in Minnesota from the North
Dakota Border to the Wisconsin Border

PUC DOCKET NO: PPL-15-137
OAH DOCKET NO: 65-2500-33377

IRA Civic Center
1401 Northwest 3rd Avenue
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

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1 FACILITATOR: Kathleen Blake.
2 Kathleen. Name and spelling for the record.

3 MS. KATHLEEN BLAKE: My name is
4 Kathleen Blake. K-A-T-H-L-E-E-N. Blake is
5 B-L-A-K-E. I'm a resident of Grand Rapids.

6 I'd like to speak to the
7 decommissioning. Many people have spoken to that
8 already, so I don't think I have to go into detail
9 about the dangers. However, I do want to say that
10 when I was growing up, my mother used to say clean
11 up your mess before you start a new project. And I
12 said the same thing to my children. Now, I'm not
13 Enbridge's mother, but I say clean up your mess
14 before you start a new project.

15 And, finally, I want to say that the
16 slogan for our community in Grand Rapids is: It's
17 in Minnesota's Nature. What would that slogan be if
18 there is a huge spill or abandoned lines releasing
19 all kinds of chemicals into our environment?

20 Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR: Eric Wright. And name
22 and spell it for the record.

23 MR. ERIC WRIGHT: Hello, my name is
24 Eric Wright. E-R-I-C. W-R-I-G-H-T. And I'm a
25 special pipeline representative for the Operating

1 Engineers. I'd like to thank you all for the
2 opportunity to comment.

3 I've spent over half my career working
4 in the pipeline industry. For those of you who
5 don't know, we're the heavy equipment operators, and
6 we support the Line 3 project.

7 The pipeline skill trade unions have
8 been working in this industry for years now, and
9 several things have changed when it comes to
10 constructing a safe and reliable pipeline.

11 To get petroleum product from its
12 natural source reliably, I know that Enbridge will
13 go above and beyond to meet local, state, and
14 federal regulations when it comes to construction
15 and do their best to see to it that this pipeline
16 operates safely.

17 I've heard some opinions that there
18 will be a negative impact on the wildlife, due to
19 the aftermath of construction.

20 FACILITATOR: Here, let's bring you --
21 Eric, hold on one second. Let's bring you a mic
22 that works.

23 (Off the record.)

24 MR. ERIC WRIGHT: I know that Enbridge
25 will go above and beyond to meet local, state, and

1 federal regulations when it comes to constructing
2 and do their best to see to it that this pipeline
3 operates safely.

4 I've heard some opinions that there
5 will be a negative impact on wildlife, due to the
6 aftermath of constructing the Line 3 project, but I
7 beg to differ. My family has a relatively large
8 amount of property that has pipelines crossing it,
9 and I've hunted on these pipelines for years. As
10 far as I can tell, it hasn't interrupted wildlife at
11 all.

12 These pipelines cross two small
13 streams on the property that feed into a pond where
14 I regularly take my family to fish. In all the
15 years I've never seen any oil residue or
16 discoloration on the water.

17 Pipelines are clearly the safest way
18 to move petroleum products from A to B. Everyone
19 uses petroleum products, whether it be components of
20 your cellular device or your shoes. We've all heard
21 it here before. It's been brought up. It's in many
22 consumer products, and it's not going anywhere.

23 I understand that environmentalists
24 are fighting to stop this pipeline project due to
25 worries about spills. I'm here to tell you that

1 each weld on this project will be inspected visually
2 and x-rayed. There will be state-of-the-art valves
3 installed along the route to shut it down in case of
4 an emergency.

5 In short, the Operating Engineers,
6 along with its 400,000-plus membership, requests
7 approval for this project. Thank you.

8 FACILITATOR: Josh -- I'm definitely
9 going to mispronounce your last name. Josh
10 Pergenhauga (phonetic).

11 MR. JOSH PURREMHAGE: Yeah, you
12 mispronounced it.

13 FACILITATOR: I knew I did.

14 MR. JOSH PURREMHAGE: That's all
15 right. It's Josh Purremhage. P, as in Paul,
16 U-R-R-E-M-H-A-G-E.

17 First of all, I'd like to thank all of
18 the people from the State of Minnesota. This has
19 got to be a grueling tour, and nobody has thanked
20 you enough for all the work that goes into this.

21 A lot of these questions are economic,
22 engineering, biological impacts to the community.
23 But I thought I'd take a little bit different
24 approach on why I think this pipeline needs to be
25 replaced.

1 So I looked at what the world looked
2 like when it was installed, just for a little check.
3 Average income at the time was \$7,300 a year, and
4 cost of gas was 33 cents a gallon. Muhammad Ali was
5 dodging the draft and had his title taken away at
6 the time. The National Transportation Safety Board
7 was just created at that time; and they came up with
8 innovative safety requirements for vehicles,
9 including headrests and seatbelts. The Beatles came
10 out with their Quintessential Sergeant Pepper's
11 album.

12 This pipeline has been there a long
13 time, and I don't understand the opposition to
14 upgrade it. The civil engineer report card was
15 recently updated this year, and we maintained a
16 D-plus. It hasn't changed since 2013. Our
17 infrastructure needs to be updated and upgraded.

18 One of the specific recommendations
19 from the civil engineering report card is to, quote,
20 promote usage of accepted engineering standards for,
21 among other things, pipelines to help ensure safety
22 and reliability.

23 This line won't be in service until we
24 can replace it with a better quality pipeline, and I
25 don't understand why we push against that.

1 Thank you.

2 FACILITATOR: Anybody else want to
3 comment? Make sure you give your card with your
4 name on it to Stacey.

5 So Lois Bendis. Lois. Oh, right
6 here, Lois is right here in the yellow shirt.

7 MS. LOIS BENDIS: My name is Lois
8 Bendis, L-O-I-S, Bendis, B-E-N-D-I-S. I have the
9 honor of being a great-grandmother to two young
10 boys. For those -- I think that -- I came here in
11 my car. I think we all need oil. I feel that if I
12 look -- we looked at in history, though, we have had
13 a lot of Superfund bailouts of some bad situations
14 where chemicals were being dumped into rivers and
15 lakes, and that got cleaned up because people were
16 concerned about the environment.

17 I don't think that you can run
18 railcars full of oil that can explode through a
19 community. That's not a safe way to do it.

20 What I do question is why we are
21 requesting rerouting part of this pipeline. I think
22 that it could be done alongside, the old line can be
23 taken out, and the thing cleaned up.

24 If you go on Google and Google how
25 many oil spills there have been in the country,

1 you -- the whole -- the whole country is red. So it
2 happens.

3 Engineering now will be much better.
4 There's a lot of men in this room that I can tell
5 work for the pipeline, and they're concerned about
6 their jobs, and why wouldn't they be? We've got to
7 look toward cleaner fuel, but in the meantime we
8 have to live.

9 So I'm just saying do we have to -- do
10 we have to do it and run this very crooked line all
11 over the place, instead of following the route that
12 it is now?

13 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

14 FACILITATOR: Thank you, Lois.

15 Bernadine Joselyn.

16 MS. BERNADINE JOSELYN: Thank you for
17 the opportunity to speak. I'm a resident here in
18 Grand Rapids. Tonight I have the honor to speak on
19 behalf of the management committee of Camp UniStar.
20 Camp UniStar is a family of religious-affiliated
21 camp Unitarian Universalist Association of
22 Congregations in the United States. And since 1963
23 the camp has been operated on Star Island.

24 I've been asked by the management to
25 make this statement on behalf of our community here

1 tonight.

2 As stewards of the land that we are
3 privileged to manage on Star Island on Cass Lake,
4 the management committee of Camp UniStar urges the
5 decision makers to ensure that the State of
6 Minnesota honors fully all of the relevant rights
7 and obligations it has undertaken with the
8 Anishinabe people in its deliberations on the
9 certificate of need.

10 As neighbors of the Leech Lake Band of
11 Ojibway, we note with alarm the conclusion of
12 Chapter 9 on tribal resources that, quote, Any
13 route, route segment, or system alternative could
14 have a long-term detrimental effect on tribal
15 members and tribal resources.

16 In your deliberations we urge you to
17 weigh the long-term social and environmental impact
18 of the proposal just as strongly as the near-term
19 economic impacts.

20 Thank you.

21 FACILITATOR: Kylie Lemley? Kylie.
22 Name and spelling for the record.

23 MS. KYLIE LEMLEY: Hello, my name is
24 Kylie Lemley. That's K-Y-L-I-E, L-E-M-L-E-Y. I've
25 heard a lot of hypothetical talk about children,

1 grandchildren, and what our children would want. I
2 think I can be a pretty good stand-in for right now,
3 considering the fact that I could be most of your
4 child or grandchildren. So I would just like to
5 give you a couple of things -- a couple of comments
6 on things I've heard today, just based upon my own
7 experiences and research.

8 So the first thing I want to talk
9 about is jobs, because that seems to be what's on
10 everybody's mind. So I've heard a lot of, like,
11 minor figures tossed around that, oh, I promise
12 Minnesotans are going to get jobs on Line 3; no,
13 swear to god. And that's great, but why aren't we
14 talking about green economy jobs? There's a lot
15 more of them. In just 2014 the green economy
16 created over 5,000 jobs just in Minnesota alone, and
17 that's just temporary jobs. Line 3 is estimated to
18 create 1,500 total jobs. That's everywhere, not
19 just in Minnesota.

20 And if we want to talk about jobs, why
21 aren't we talking about cleaning up the pipeline
22 that's already there? That would create so many
23 more jobs that Enbridge is just completely ignoring.

24 Kind of brings me to my next point, is
25 I've heard a lot of talk about Enbridge is giving

1 tax benefits to Minnesotans. I'm not sure how many
2 of you are aware of this, but about two months ago,
3 in March, Enbridge actually sued Minnesota for tens
4 of millions of dollars worth of tax. So counties
5 like Clearwater County, for example, are going to be
6 sued for 7.2 million. That's more than they make in
7 one year in property taxes alone. I don't consider
8 that to be beneficial to the Minnesota economy,
9 personally.

10 The third thing I wanted to talk about
11 is I have not heard any commentary from anybody
12 about -- well, maybe a few people, but for the most
13 part it's been very greatly ignored, the fact that
14 there's a disproportionate affect on tribal land on
15 reservations. And I personally was not born on a
16 reservation. I don't live on a reservation. That
17 doesn't mean I don't care. It still matters to me.
18 We're all people. Right? I think it's something
19 worth looking into there. I mean, I'm not going to
20 give you all the facts that we have. We have
21 bountiful literature about it. But I think that we
22 should all educate ourselves just a little bit more.

23 For example, in areas where pipeline
24 work goes up, sex trafficking goes up. And I'm not,
25 you know, blaming anybody in particular, but this is

1 a fact. This is a proven fact. And it hits native
2 communities the hardest, native women in particular.
3 And as a woman I'm very concerned about that. And
4 the DEIS kind of glosses over that. It just says
5 that Enbridge will be providing, you know, basically
6 little counseling sessions, saying, hey, don't go
7 out and traffic women, which I don't think is
8 particularly effective. I think it's a serious
9 discussion that needs to be had.

10 My last point -- I'm sorry, I know
11 we've all talked about this a lot, but climate
12 change. It's a real thing. I want to begin by
13 saying that I'm not -- I know we all use oil. It's
14 obvious. Of course I drove here today. But I'm not
15 asking for immediate cessation of petroleum use.
16 I'm just asking for a transition out of it. We
17 can't do that while building more pipeline. We keep
18 acting like Line 3 is the only pipeline anywhere,
19 and that's not true. This is an increase of tar
20 sands production, flat and simple, and we don't need
21 that. If we want to move to a more sustainable
22 economy, increasing tar sands production is not
23 going to do that at all.

24 Just my final point that I'd like to
25 make, just because it's something I read recently.

1 So there's something called climate departure or a
2 climate change tipping point. And what that means
3 is that essentially every year after certain cities'
4 tipping point, or whatever you want to call it,
5 every year past this point will be hotter than its
6 hottest year from 1850 through 2005, so the last --
7 all of modern history as we know it. That's kind of
8 a big deal.

9 And if anyone's interested,
10 Washington, D.C., New York City, for example, their
11 tipping point is expected to be reached by 2047.
12 That might sound like it's a long way away, but
13 that's 30 years away. That's nothing. I'm not even
14 going to be as old as some of you when that point
15 comes.

16 So I don't want to just talk about
17 hypothetical children or grandchildren. This is my
18 life too, and I think we should all really, really
19 consider some other option. If we took this money
20 and put it towards sustainable options for which the
21 technology already exists, then I think we can make
22 a real difference. We've been trying to transition
23 for 50 years. Let's actually do something about it
24 now.

25 Thank you.

1 FACILITATOR: Thanks, Kylie.

2 Irene Folstrom. Irene? And just name
3 and spelling for the record. The reporter right now
4 is right behind us.

5 MS. IRENE FOLSTROM: I'm Irene
6 Folstrom. I-R-E-N-E. F, as in Frank,
7 O-L-S-T-R-O-M. Is that slow enough? Where is the
8 recorder?

9 I am actually with the Minnesota
10 Environmental Partnership. I'm the Great Lakes
11 Public coordinator. I'm also a Leech Lake tribal
12 member and was born and raised in Cass Lake. So I
13 guess by some measures I'm a local. I currently
14 live in Duluth.

15 And I want to touch a little bit on
16 both aspects of the DEIS, as it affects the tribal
17 resources and as it affects the community and our
18 environment.

19 I guess first I'll start out by saying
20 that -- I actually -- the draft is proposed to go
21 through the 1855 Treaty territory, and it costs us
22 some of our sensitive wild rice and wetlands --
23 wetland habitat in Minnesota.

24 I think that whether you are from
25 Grand Rapids or you're a Leech Lake tribal member,

1 we should all be really concerned about the risks
2 that the project proposes to the water, land, and
3 the climate.

4 Clean water is a way of life in
5 northern Minnesota. The proposed route would
6 threaten some of Minnesota's most important water
7 resources, including the tributaries of rivers that
8 lead into Lake Superior. There is no spill analysis
9 for tributaries of the St. Louis River or the
10 Nemadji River. And considering that most of my work
11 is related to protecting the Great Lakes, and in
12 particular Lake Superior, this is really concerning.

13 I think somebody mentioned it a little
14 bit earlier -- perhaps it was Thane -- there's no
15 sort of -- there's not even a mention as to what a
16 spill into that harbor would do to that economy
17 either and to -- the devastating effect it would do
18 socially.

19 The project also presents the risks to
20 the people of north Minnesota along two different --
21 two separate corridors. First, there are risks to
22 water quality from the new pipeline. And, second,
23 the abandoned pipe poses risks to our water and land
24 that haven't been adequately examined, as we've all
25 pointed out, in the DEIS.

1 There's not enough analysis presented
2 in the DEIS of the environmental impact of the
3 abandonment. The DEIS states that Enbridge has
4 indicated that it would develop a contaminated site
5 management plan to identify, manage, and mitigate
6 historically-contaminated soils and waters found
7 during abandonment or removal of existing Line 3,
8 but does not include the plan for long-term
9 contaminated site management.

10 And most importantly to me, Line 3 is
11 routed through the heart of the 1855 Treaty
12 territory. The pipe that would be abandoned crosses
13 two reservations. The DEIS recognizes the
14 disproportionate impact the pipeline would have on
15 tribal communities, but then goes on to conclude
16 that this is not a reason to deny the project.
17 Ludicrous. This is an egregious example of
18 environment racism. There's just no way around
19 that. It's racism.

20 To note the disproportionate impact
21 tribal people face but to still recommend routing a
22 pipeline through the Treaty territory is completely
23 unacceptable.

24 Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR: I've got Bali Humphrey

1 next. Bali Humphrey. Okay. Then just name and
2 spelling for the record.

3 MS. BALI HUMPHREY: Bali Humphrey.
4 B-A-L-I. H-U-M-P-H-R-E-Y. Well, first I want to
5 say I'm not like -- I'm not an expert on pipelines,
6 and I'm not an expert on any of it. But I do have
7 some comments, and I do recognize and realize the
8 threats that it poses.

9 Just some numbers that I found were,
10 in 2015, 2016 solar alone produced 374,000 jobs,
11 which compared to fossil fuels that -- this combines
12 all fossil fuels, which is the coal and oil and all
13 that combined -- fossil fuel employed 187,117 jobs.
14 That's like twice as much in renewable energy. That
15 seems like the big argument here is jobs. But with
16 those numbers, it doesn't really make any sense how
17 fossil fuels is, like, the big one on producing
18 jobs, because it doesn't.

19 And then I heard somebody mention how
20 safe this pipeline would be and how a lot of people
21 believe so. But in 1991 the largest eminent oil
22 spill was here in Grand Rapids Itasca Community
23 College, and that spilled 1.7 million gallons of
24 oil. The response time to that was seven minutes.
25 In seven minutes 1.7 million gallons of oil was

1 spilled.

2 This reroute is right next to the
3 Mississippi Headwaters. Could you imagine if
4 1.7 million gallons of oil was spilled in seven
5 minutes? That does not only affect Minnesota, but
6 all the states that the Mississippi River would
7 touch. Tar sands is the dirtiest oil. How can they
8 clean that up? I don't know. It doesn't make much
9 sense to me.

10 So I just want to make it very clear I
11 oppose Line 3, I oppose the abandonment of Line 3,
12 and I oppose pipelines in general.

13 FACILITATOR: Thank you, Bali.

14 Christina Bowstring? Christina?
15 Christina?

16 MS. CHRISTINA BOWSTRING: Hi, my name
17 is Christina Bowstring, and I've been hearing a lot
18 of this talk around everywhere. And when I think
19 about the pipeline and the things that come with it,
20 I think of what are we sacrificing? Mankind is the
21 only thing on this planet that is completely and
22 totally destructive. It doesn't matter what nation
23 you come from, there is something terribly wrong
24 when we think it's okay and all right to destroy the
25 land and the environment for progress and economic

1 sustainability.

2 We as human beings haven't acted
3 responsibly as a whole with regard to preserving the
4 environment in a way that will be beneficial to
5 future generations.

6 Have you really thought about what
7 we're doing now? How is that going to affect your
8 grandchildren or their grandchildren? All of these
9 things, does anybody even think about that? Yeah,
10 it might create jobs right now. Yes, it will be
11 very economic beneficially for everybody right now.
12 Not for the future.

13 We sacrifice so much to be so
14 destructive. Each time we make decisions that
15 contribute to imbalance in nature, thinking it will
16 be good in some form for the people, we sacrifice
17 our future, we sacrifice a healthy environment, a
18 healthy nature.

19 I ask you do you all sacrifice your
20 generations so easily to cause damage to the earth
21 and devastation to the environment? And I beg you
22 all to think about these things, because it's not
23 just me as a native person that it's going to have
24 an impact on; it's going to impact everybody
25 everywhere.

1 Those are the things that we need to
2 be thinking about. Thank you.

3 FACILITATOR: Christina, could you
4 just spell your last name for the record, please.
5 Sorry about that. Spell your last name for the
6 record.

7 MS. CHRISTINA BOWSTRING: Spell my
8 last name?

9 FACILITATOR: Yeah. Thank you.

10 MS. CHRISTINA BOWSTRING: My last name
11 Bowstring, B-O-W-S-T-R-I-N-G. And, no, I do not own
12 the lake, but it is named after my family.

13 FACILITATOR: Thank you.

14 That's all the index cards I have for
15 comment. So to let you know, the court reporters
16 are going to stay after. If people want to go give
17 a comment to them, they can. There are also chances
18 to write written comments over here by the EIS, if
19 you want, in the boxes. We're collecting all the
20 comments.

21 The last of the public comment period
22 will end on July 10. So any comments you want to
23 send after tonight should come in by July 10 so the
24 State can consider them, as they move to drafting
25 the final EIS to submit to the Public Utilities

1 Commission.

2 So thank you for your good comments,
3 your thoughts, your participation, and your
4 constructive engagement. Safe travels home, and
5 thank you very much.

6 (Meeting concluded.)

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