

DEIS MEETINGS - 14-916 15-137

STAPLES - JUNE 14, 2017 - 11:00 A.M.

(PRIVATE COMMENTS WITH COURT REPORTERS)

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

Staples Community Center
122 6th Street NE
Staples, Minnesota

I N D E X

SPEAKER

PAGE

Ms. June Weitemier

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Ms. Kimberly Pilgrim

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Benjamin Owaleon

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1 MS. JUNE WEITEMIER: June, and it's
2 W-E-I-T-E-M-I-E-R.

3 I'd like to say that I'm for the
4 pipeline, and I'm especially for putting in new
5 pipes replacement. And most of my family -- there's
6 like 75 of us, with just my brothers and sisters and
7 children. And 75 out of 5 [sic] are for, and we're
8 trying to train the young ones. Because if they can
9 put a cable on the ocean floor from England to the
10 United States of America for the telegraph, this is
11 a lot easier. Plus, they have the technology, the
12 engineers to go and check and to see where the
13 placement of rivers, creeks, pipes, and that kind of
14 thing are, you know, for safety purposes.

15 So I'm definitely for it, because I
16 think that the engineers and the chemists are smart
17 enough to know how to do it. They're not just
18 regular people.

19 So, yeah. And I think it would stop
20 some of the problem with the railways, you know.
21 So, I mean, I love trains; but I think we need to
22 have safety, safety first. And I know, you know,
23 every city has a city underground of pipes, sewers,
24 electrical wires, you know, in any decent-sized
25 city. So this would be almost nothing, you know,

1 for Enbridge to do.

2 So I'm in favor of it.

3 I know there was something else I was
4 going it say, but I can't think of the other thing.

5 MS. KIMBERLY PILGRIM: Kimberly
6 Pilgrim. K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y. P-I-L-G-R-I-M. And I
7 would like to make a comment that I think the
8 Department of Commerce has done a terrible job of
9 advertising and getting the message out for the
10 public to comment on this.

11 And, for example, I work at the
12 Community College in Brainerd, Minnesota; and we
13 accidentally found out about it last Monday and that
14 there was -- it was just -- it was pretty quiet. So
15 it wasn't like -- I think that something this
16 significant needs to have better advertisement.

17 And I spoke with a lot of community
18 members in Staples that weren't aware that this was
19 happening here. I think that the big posters and --
20 it's not accessible to just -- I mean, it doesn't
21 make sense to the common person, and it can be
22 intimidating. And I think the State should be using
23 universal design, and I think that the information
24 should have been more interactive.

25 And so I feel like the Minnesota

1 residents, the Department of Commerce has really let
2 them down by not being more aggressive in promoting
3 this community input.

4 I also feel like my first choice would
5 be for a Canadian-owned company is to run their
6 pipeline through Canada and not Minnesota and
7 compromise Minnesota water.

8 Given if we don't have a choice, then
9 my choice would be replacing existing lines. And I
10 realize that that's not the preferred choice for
11 Enbridge, because it's more expensive. Well, if a
12 Canadian -- I mean, if another country wants to use
13 our land to pump crude oil through, it really
14 doesn't matter.

15 I mean, and they also need to be --
16 there needs to be money in escrow from this Enbridge
17 company for cleanup. And I also think Enbridge
18 needs to do more -- more significant monitoring of
19 their oil pipelines.

20 MR. BENJAMIN OWALEON: First,
21 name is Benjamin, B-E-N-J-A-M-I-N. Last name
22 is Owaleon, O-W-A-L-E-O-N. I feel that this
23 DEIS meeting was really crippled because of
24 inadequate notification and lack of
25 information adequately disseminated to the

1 public, I felt, including detailed maps that
2 needed to be reviewed more than just a few
3 minutes before the DEIS meeting.

4 (Comments concluded.)
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|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | 3:23,23,25 | England (1) | JUNE (2) | needed (1) |
| [| cleanup (1) | 3:9 | 3:1,1 | 6:2 |
| [sic] (1) | 5:17 | enough (1) | K | needs (3) |
| 3:7 | College (1) | 3:17 | | 4:16;5:16,18 |
| A | 4:12 | escrow (1) | KIMBERLY (2) | new (1) |
| | comment (2) | 5:16 | 4:5,5 | 3:4 |
| | 4:7,10 | especially (1) | K-I-M-B-E-R-L-Y (1) | notification (1) |
| | Comments (1) | 3:4 | 4:6 | 5:24 |
| accessible (1) | 6:4 | example (1) | kind (1) | O |
| 4:20 | Commerce (2) | 4:11 | 3:13 | |
| accidentally (1) | 4:8;5:1 | existing (1) | L | ocean (1) |
| 4:13 | common (1) | 5:9 | | 3:9 |
| adequately (1) | 4:21 | expensive (1) | | oil (2) |
| 5:25 | Community (3) | 5:11 | lack (1) | 5:13,19 |
| advertisement (1) | 4:12,17;5:3 | F | 5:24 | ones (1) |
| 4:16 | company (2) | | land (1) | 3:8 |
| advertising (1) | 5:5,17 | family (1) | 5:13 | out (3) |
| 4:9 | compromise (1) | 3:5 | last (2) | 3:7;4:9,13 |
| aggressive (1) | 5:7 | favor (1) | 4:13;5:21 | OWALEON (2) |
| 5:2 | concluded (1) | 4:2 | lines (1) | 5:20,22 |
| almost (1) | 6:4 | feel (3) | 5:9 | O-W-A-L-E-O-N (1) |
| 3:25 | country (1) | 4:25;5:4,22 | lot (2) | 5:22 |
| America (1) | 5:12 | felt (1) | 3:11;4:17 | P |
| 3:10 | creeks (1) | 6:1 | love (1) | |
| aware (1) | 3:13 | few (1) | 3:21 | people (1) |
| 4:18 | crippled (1) | 6:2 | M | 3:18 |
| B | 5:23 | first (3) | | person (1) |
| | crude (1) | 3:22;5:4,20 | maps (1) | 4:21 |
| | 5:13 | floor (1) | 6:1 | PILGRIM (2) |
| BENJAMIN (2) | D | 3:9 | matter (1) | 4:5,6 |
| 5:20,21 | | found (1) | 5:14 | P-I-L-G-R-I-M (1) |
| B-E-N-J-A-M-I-N (1) | decent-sized (1) | 4:13 | mean (4) | 4:6 |
| 5:21 | 3:24 | G | 3:21;4:20;5:12,15 | pipeline (2) |
| better (1) | definitely (1) | | meeting (2) | 3:4;5:6 |
| 4:16 | 3:15 | Given (1) | 5:23;6:3 | pipelines (1) |
| big (1) | DEIS (2) | 5:8 | members (1) | 5:19 |
| 4:19 | 5:23;6:3 | H | 4:18 | pipes (3) |
| Brainerd (1) | Department (2) | | message (1) | 3:5,13,23 |
| 4:12 | 4:8;5:1 | happening (1) | 4:9 | placement (1) |
| brothers (1) | design (1) | 4:19 | Minnesota (4) | 3:13 |
| 3:6 | 4:23 | I | 4:12,25;5:6,7 | Plus (1) |
| C | detailed (1) | | minutes (1) | 3:11 |
| | 6:1 | inadequate (1) | 6:3 | posters (1) |
| cable (1) | disseminated (1) | 5:24 | Monday (1) | 4:19 |
| 3:9 | 5:25 | including (1) | 4:13 | preferred (1) |
| can (2) | done (1) | 6:1 | money (1) | 5:10 |
| 3:8;4:21 | 4:8 | information (2) | 5:16 | pretty (1) |
| Canada (1) | down (1) | 4:23;5:25 | monitoring (1) | 4:14 |
| 5:6 | 5:2 | input (1) | 5:18 | problem (1) |
| Canadian (1) | E | 5:3 | more (6) | 3:20 |
| 5:12 | | interactive (1) | 4:24;5:2,11,18,18; | promoting (1) |
| Canadian-owned (1) | easier (1) | 4:24 | 6:2 | 5:2 |
| 5:5 | 3:11 | intimidating (1) | most (1) | public (2) |
| check (1) | electrical (1) | 4:22 | 3:5 | 4:10;6:1 |
| 3:12 | 3:24 | J | N | pump (1) |
| chemists (1) | else (1) | | | 5:13 |
| 3:16 | 4:3 | job (1) | name (2) | purposes (1) |
| children (1) | Enbridge (4) | 4:8 | 5:21,21 | 3:14 |
| 3:7 | 4:1;5:11,16,17 | | need (2) | 3:9 |
| choice (4) | engineers (2) | | 3:21;5:15 | putting (1) |
| 5:4,8,9,10 | 3:12,16 | | | |
| city (3) | | | | |

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 3:4 | train (1) 3:8 | | | |
| Q | trains (1) 3:21 | | | |
| quiet (1) 4:14 | trying (1) 3:8 | | | |
| R | U | | | |
| railways (1) 3:20 | underground (1) 3:23 | | | |
| realize (1) 5:10 | United (1) 3:10 | | | |
| really (3) 5:1,13,23 | universal (1) 4:23 | | | |
| regular (1) 3:18 | use (1) 5:12 | | | |
| replacement (1) 3:5 | using (1) 4:22 | | | |
| replacing (1) 5:9 | W | | | |
| residents (1) 5:1 | wants (1) 5:12 | | | |
| reviewed (1) 6:2 | water (1) 5:7 | | | |
| rivers (1) 3:13 | WEITEMIER (1) 3:1 | | | |
| run (1) 5:5 | W-E-I-T-E-M-I-E-R (1) 3:2 | | | |
| S | weren't (1) 4:18 | | | |
| safety (3) 3:14,22,22 | wires (1) 3:24 | | | |
| sense (1) 4:21 | work (1) 4:11 | | | |
| sewers (1) 3:23 | Y | | | |
| significant (2) 4:16;5:18 | young (1) 3:8 | | | |
| sisters (1) 3:6 | 5 | | | |
| smart (1) 3:16 | 5 (1) 3:7 | | | |
| spoke (1) 4:17 | 7 | | | |
| Staples (1) 4:18 | 75 (2) 3:6,7 | | | |
| State (1) 4:22 | | | | |
| States (1) 3:10 | | | | |
| stop (1) 3:19 | | | | |
| T | | | | |
| technology (1) 3:11 | | | | |
| telegraph (1) 3:10 | | | | |
| terrible (1) 4:8 | | | | |