

DEIS MEETINGS - 14-916 15-137

HALLOCK - JUNE 20, 2017 - 6:00 p.m.

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
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Hallock City Hall
163 3rd Street SE
Hallock, Minnesota

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1 FACILITATOR: I think we're ready
2 to start the public comment. So just a few
3 things. My name is Patrick Field, and I'm with
4 the consulting team working on behalf of the
5 State of Minnesota for the Department of
6 Commerce.

7 Jamie MacAlister is the project
8 manager for the Department of Commerce. She's
9 going to open up with some general words about
10 the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the
11 process, where it's been and where it's going.

12 I'll talk about how we'll do the
13 public comments and then we will dive in.

14 So, Jamie, I'll turn it over to
15 you.

16 MS. JAMIE MACALISTER: Good
17 evening, everyone. Welcome. We are here
18 tonight to get your comments on the Draft
19 Environmental Impact Statement.

20 We hope that you had an
21 opportunity to look at our poster boards, to
22 speak with other agency staff that we have
23 here. We have folks from the Public Utilities
24 Commission, the Department of Natural
25 Resources, and the Pollution Control Agency,

1 as well as Commerce, to give you some
2 information on the Draft EIS and answer some
3 questions for you.

4 As you probably know, the
5 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is the
6 agency that is tasked with making the decision
7 on this project and they must make two
8 decisions.

9 First, they must decide whether
10 or not to issue the Certificate of Need, and
11 once they make a determination on that, they
12 have to decide whether or not to issue the
13 route permit for this project.

14 If you've been following this
15 process for a while, you've probably attended
16 one of our meetings. About a year ago we were
17 out in the project area, getting scoping
18 comments.

19 Those comments were used to
20 develop the scoping document, which was then
21 used to write the Draft Environmental Impact
22 Statement.

23 So today we are here checking
24 comments on the Draft EIS. The comment period
25 closes on July 10th. Shortly thereafter we

1 will be issuing a Final Environmental Impact
2 Statement, and your comments will be used to
3 help inform that final document.

4 This whole process gets turned
5 over to the administrative law judge and the
6 Public Utilities Commission. There will be
7 another series of meetings with an
8 administrative law judge in the fall.

9 That will be the time for you to
10 advocate your position for the project in
11 support or in opposition to it or to provide
12 the judge with other comments that you think
13 are necessary for this project.

14 And a decision is not expected
15 until sometime in the spring of 2018.

16 So tonight we are looking for
17 your comments on the Draft EIS. Specifically
18 we are interested in knowing if there is
19 information that is missing from the document,
20 if there's anything that we missed, is the EIS
21 unclear, or are there other things that we can
22 do to improve the quality of the document.

23 You are more than welcome to
24 submit oral comments here this evening. You
25 can also submit written comments. There's

1 comment sheets on the tables and boxes that
2 you can drop them into. You are also welcome
3 to submit them by email or regular mail at
4 your leisure so long as they are postmarked by
5 July 10th. We will be looking at those.

6 We also want to remind you that
7 all these comments that we receive are looked
8 at equally. This is not a vote on the project.

9 It doesn't matter if we have a
10 hundred comments for the project, a hundred
11 projects against the project, form letters. We
12 look at each comment individually.

13 All of the comments will be put
14 online. They will be on our website. They
15 will be on the Public Utilities Commission
16 E-Dockets web page for these projects, and you
17 will be able to see your comments, and your
18 neighbors' comments, and the comments that were
19 made at other locations while we held these
20 meetings.

21 And then just to remind everyone
22 that the EIS itself is not the decision-making
23 document. The EIS is an information document,
24 and it looks at the impact of all of the
25 alternatives that are being considered.

1 And with that, I'm going to turn
2 it back over to Pat and get the oral portion of
3 our meeting underway.

4 FACILITATOR: So here's just a
5 few rules of the road for our public comment
6 period. Just a few announcements first. As
7 you may know, bathrooms are in the basement.

8 If anybody has the need for a
9 handicapped elevator, we will help you
10 operate. Just let us know. We'll be happy to
11 help. There's plenty of food in the back.
12 Exit out the back, obviously, as you know.

13 For the public comment period,
14 we've had smaller meetings like this. We've
15 had very, very large meetings and in between.
16 So we've tried to be somewhat consistent as to
17 how we do this. So just kind of letting you
18 know a few of the procedures.

19 If anybody wants to make a
20 public comment -- and I have at least two
21 folks who put their names down -- so we'll
22 start with those two and then we'll see if
23 there's others.

24 We want them to make sure they
25 get their voices heard. So when they speak,

1 if people could listen and not interrupt, that
2 would be helpful.

3 We have a terrific court
4 reporter who will be here capturing every
5 word. When you do speak at the start, state
6 your name and spell it for the court reporter,
7 if you could, so she captures that accurately.

8 We're a small group so we're not
9 going to be worried too much about how long
10 people talk, though our suspicion is by six or
11 seven minutes at most you can probably get
12 most of your points in.

13 We do run a clock, which we've
14 done at all meetings, just to be consistent
15 and to let you know how you're doing for time.
16 We have plenty of time tonight for people to
17 talk a little bit longer, if they want to.

18 We do ask -- we may have a range
19 of views in the room so we ask that people be
20 respectful of people's views and opinions even
21 if they're different than your own.

22 At the end of a comment, at the
23 end, as someone's finishing their time, if you
24 want to be affirmative, we're happy to do
25 that. But we ask people not be negative.

1 The one other thing we ask is
2 that people not speak to individuals in the
3 room, but comment to agencies, organizations,
4 the project, the documents, the issues.

5 Because obviously, if you're
6 talking to somebody individually in the room,
7 that can make people uncomfortable and we want
8 everyone here to be comfortable.

9 The State's job during the
10 comment period is to listen. So they won't be
11 answering questions, but they will be taking
12 questions if you have them. And we'll
13 certainly be taking comments.

14 Again, the court reporter will
15 be capturing those.

16 State agency folks, do you want
17 to raise your hands so we know who in the room
18 are our state agency folks from different
19 parts of the state of Minnesota who have been
20 helping out. So they're here to listen.

21 Cell phones, please put on
22 vibrate or do not disturb, just as a reminder,
23 so we don't have your interesting ring.

24 If you do have something that
25 you're reading as you comment, it will be very

1 helpful to the court reporter if we can take
2 the written statement when you're done just so
3 we can match that with the transcript for the
4 words that you spoke as well. That would be
5 very helpful.

6 So with that, I'll get the timer
7 set up.

8 So the first person here to
9 speak is Todd Johnson. Todd, do you want to
10 raise your hand?

11 MS. JAMIE MACALISTER: Todd is
12 not here. He will be providing written
13 comments.

14 FACILITATOR: The next person is
15 Mr. Carlson. We'll bring the mic to you, and
16 please state your name and spell it for the
17 record.

18 I don't represent Wikstrom
19 Telephone.

20 MR. JUAL CARLSON: My name is
21 Jual Carlson, J-U-A-L. I live at Karlstad,
22 Minnesota, and the pipeline doesn't go through
23 Karlstad, but it goes through Kittson County.
24 It goes through Marshall County.

25 I'm interested in maximum

1 economic benefits for Kittson County, Marshall
2 County, and the state of Minnesota.

3 I'm interested in maximum safety.
4 I'll sit down so I get closer to the paper.
5 You all can see I'm not running for political
6 office, but I just wanted to make an
7 introduction. Thank you.

8 At this point I'm very neutral,
9 and that's what I've said. But again, I say we
10 need maximum benefits from this pipeline.
11 That's -- we should keep that in mind on all
12 sides. And we need maximum safety, too, as
13 much as possible.

14 So how do we get that? I think
15 we need an alternate route. And I'll explain
16 why as I go along.

17 But the alternate route will
18 correct some past mistakes, probably when the
19 pipeline was put in. But I'm not -- it won't
20 be an alternate that covers the whole route;
21 just the northern part.

22 And I think it's very curious --
23 I'm curious why this book doesn't go further
24 north. Because the way I understand it, that's
25 where the oil is going to come from, from

1 Canada. It isn't going to come from North
2 Dakota.

3 The North Dakota oil will be
4 going on the other side of the border, on the
5 west side of the border. So actually, they'll
6 be a competitor. It'll be Canadian oil coming
7 here through Kittson County, Marshall County,
8 and beyond.

9 The North Dakota oil, as I
10 understand it, will go on the west side of the
11 border. They'll be competitors and that's
12 good. We need competition for the good of all
13 the users. And I'm a user.

14 Why do we need maximum economic
15 benefits? Because in Kittson County, we got a
16 small population, for one thing, and we need
17 better roads. That seems to be the number one
18 thing that we need.

19 And we can get this with an
20 alternate route. And the problem with this
21 route as it sits here, it goes -- the problem
22 is mostly at the north end.

23 So in all of the maps here it
24 hits Kittson County pretty much on the south,
25 but when it goes north, it crosses the Red

1 River.

2 So is that maximum safety? No,
3 it isn't, because if you had a leak in that
4 pipe, that water is going to go to Winnipeg --
5 or the oil, I mean, is going to go to Pembina.
6 It's going to go to Winnipeg, because the Red
7 River runs north.

8 And where is the biggest problem
9 I can see on this map? It's also in North
10 Dakota, where it crosses from Canada. That
11 seems to be a problem also.

12 And so that's why I believe there
13 should be an alternate route going from
14 Donaldson, straight north across the
15 Canadian/U.S. border, all the way north in
16 Winnipeg or equivalent to Winnipeg, and then
17 across the Red River and catch that Canadian
18 crude.

19 I guess the reason for that
20 alternate is definitely safety, but it's
21 also -- I'll repeat, it's good economic
22 benefits; in particular, to Kittson County, and
23 that's where I'm from.

24 I'm not -- we got a little land
25 in Marshall County and a little less in Kittson

1 County. But we definitely stand in need of
2 economic benefits and safety for the whole
3 route.

4 So when you consider the time
5 element and you consider the distance, it isn't
6 a whole lot of money. I mean, when you
7 consider the number of years that it would be
8 in service, no.

9 So if you look on all of these
10 maps, that pipeline should go straight north
11 from Donaldson all the way passed Winnipeg and
12 then to the west.

13 I thank you very much for the
14 opportunity to speak.

15 FACILITATOR: Thank you, sir,
16 very much.

17 MR. JUAL CARLSON: I want to
18 point out, too, I think it's very peculiar that
19 all of these maps -- none of them show Canada.
20 They just end right there.

21 I think that's kind of strange
22 that they don't show that.

23 And in fact, even here on the
24 tribal map, they show Swampy Creek or
25 something. But it isn't Swampy. It's north of

1 the border there, because I've driven east and
2 west there on the Canadian side. And there
3 isn't much swamp there.

4 FACILITATOR: Thanks very much.
5 If you want to draw anything on the map and put
6 it in the comment box, you're welcome to do
7 that, too, sir.

8 Are there other folks who would
9 like to comment? Raise your hand so we can
10 get a rough count of people who want to
11 comment and we'll take folks one at a time.
12 Anybody else who wants to make a public
13 comment to the crowd here tonight in addition
14 to written comments you can do?

15 We'll bring you the mic, and,
16 again, name and spelling for the court
17 reporter.

18 MS. KATHY HOLLANDER: My name is
19 Kathy Hollander, K-A-T-H-Y H-O-L-L-A-N-D-E-R.
20 Partly I stood up to make it easier for other
21 people to make comments, because I know it's
22 hard to stand up and make a comment. It's not
23 Minnesotan.

24 It's certainly not Lutheran and
25 especially not common for a woman to do it in

1 front of a group of strong men that I see in
2 front of me.

3 So I'm going to try to and take a
4 chance.

5 Today was a rough day for the
6 price of oil. I don't know if you happened to
7 notice some of the news reports, but energy
8 stocks and oil had a tough time, toughest time
9 since March. The price of oil kind of tumbled,
10 today, down to about \$44 a barrel.

11 Why is that? I think it's
12 because of supply and demand. I don't know if
13 people know that the world, the entire world,
14 is pulling more oil out of the ground than what
15 we are using right now.

16 And I don't know if people know
17 that there's a glut of oil inventory, both in
18 the United States and in the world.

19 There's even been a report that
20 they're starting to store oil in tankers again.
21 They put oil in tankers and put them on the
22 oceans and they use diesel fuel to drive those
23 tankers driving oil around because there isn't
24 a place to offload it.

25 I'm sorry to take your time, I'm

1 sorry if I'm burdening you, but these things
2 are on my heart.

3 I am a person of faith and I
4 believe in the care of creation. And I would
5 like to mention we have a state environmental
6 policy. We have laws that say that our state
7 has the responsibility to serve as trustee of
8 the environment for succeeding generations.

9 I think about my child, and I
10 think about my future grandkids. We also are
11 supposed to minimize wasteful and unnecessary
12 depletion of nonrenewable resources.

13 I would say it is wasteful to
14 pull more oil out of the ground than what we
15 need. It's wasteful for future generations
16 that might need that precious oil. It's
17 wasteful right now to drive oil around in
18 tankers in the ocean because nobody needs it.

19 I don't know if people know --
20 some people are here for the first time -- that
21 there are seven pipelines coming down from
22 Canada to Clearbrook, Minnesota, six that go on
23 from there, and there's one pipeline that comes
24 in from North Dakota into Clearbrook.

25 If we didn't replace one

1 pipeline, it's not like more oil wouldn't
2 continue to flow.

3 There are existing other
4 pipelines. The Minnesota refineries are
5 sufficiently fed with the oil that's in those
6 pipelines right now. It's not like Minnesota
7 would simply not have enough gas.

8 Do people know that demand for
9 oil products is down 19 percent in Minnesota?
10 Minnesota -- sorry for my "O" accent. I am a
11 Minnesotan. Minnesota is using less oil.

12 Compare that to Wisconsin who
13 hasn't dropped their oil demand, and yet our
14 gross domestic product per person in Minnesota
15 exceeds that of Wisconsin.

16 We've essentially decoupled use
17 of petroleum in our state from economic growth.
18 I just wanted to share that with people, if
19 they didn't know.

20 Also, I'd like to share a story
21 with you. I recently heard about a person at
22 the Rocky Mountain Institute who compared two
23 photographs. They were of the New York City
24 Easter parade.

25 In 1900, there wasn't a car to be

1 seen. The mode of transportation in the
2 parade, Easter parade, was all horses and
3 carriages. Thirteen years later in 1913, there
4 was nary a horse to be seen and they were all
5 automobiles.

6 That's how rapidly society could
7 transition. Electric combustion, electric cars
8 are so much more efficient than gasoline cars.
9 They may not work up here.

10 But if they work in densely
11 populated areas for people who take short
12 trips, hurrah.

13 I know, as a woman, when I go to
14 a gas station and I fill my car up with gas and
15 my hands reek of gas, if I didn't have to do
16 that anymore, if I could just get in my car and
17 plug it in at night in my garage, I know that
18 would be an advantage.

19 I know the kids in my car would
20 prefer not having to stop at a gas station.

21 When the price of an electric car
22 comes down to the price of a gasoline car, I
23 think society is going to transition, and
24 that's what we see coming.

25 The Chevy Bolt, with a B, is

1 coming out with a 243-mile range. I think
2 people will like that, and I think they will
3 switch to it.

4 If you've been in electric cars,
5 they're fun to drive. They're zippy. I know
6 Representative Garofalo from Farmington in the
7 state capital has gotten several speeding
8 tickets inadvertently, because the cars are so
9 much fun to drive. They accelerate so rapidly.

10 So I know it's hard to change,
11 but I know how quickly we changed in computers.

12 I used to work in computers --
13 how much smaller they got. When I worked in
14 computers, they filled the whole room. Now
15 this computer is as powerful as the first
16 computer that I worked on -- look at the size
17 of it.

18 I've seen society change. I
19 think we will change to electric cars and with
20 car sharing.

21 Thank you for listening to me and
22 I hope I made it possible for other people to
23 stand up and say what's on their heart as well.
24 Thank you.

25 FACILITATOR: Thank you. Other

1 folks who want to comment? Anybody else who
2 wants to make a public comment at this time?

3 And again, if you're more
4 comfortable, a written comment in the box is
5 treated equally and the same -- and speaking
6 to the court reporter as well.

7 Mr. Carlson.

8 JUAL CARLSON: The one thing I
9 missed was I hope this isn't a drag-out
10 process. That will hurt us all, and that's
11 pretty much my simple thing. Because if it
12 goes on for years and years, that's no good for
13 anybody. So hopefully it'll be taken care of
14 in short order. Thank you for the extra
15 possibility for comment. Thank you.

16 FACILITATOR: Thank you. Okay,
17 seeing no other hands at the moment for
18 comment, again, we will -- there's plenty of
19 food. Go around the poster boards, 7:30, 7:35,
20 we'll check back to see if there's anybody else
21 who would like to make a public comment.

22 Again, thank you for coming out
23 tonight and we'll informally gather for a
24 little bit.

25 (Meeting recessed.)

1 FACILITATOR: Good evening. I
2 just want to check one more time in case
3 there's anyone else who would like to make a
4 public comment, publicly, verbally, to the
5 room. Again, people can also make a written
6 comment if they wish.

7 Anybody else who wants to make a
8 verbal comment tonight?

9 I see no takers tonight. So
10 again, written comments are welcome. We'll
11 her here for a bit. Enjoy the posters, have a
12 conversation and thanks for coming out
13 tonight.

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