



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sierra Club John Muir Chapter
222 South Hamilton St, Madison, WI 53703
(608) 256-0565 <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 12, 2014

Contact: Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator (608) 445-4489

DNR Ignores Thousands of Comments and Grants Dangerous Tar Sands Pipeline Air Permit

Madison: Today, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources decision to approve Enbridge Energies' request for an air permit to expand storage tank capacity and the capacity of their Line 61 tar sands pipeline. The proposal would triple the capacity and become the largest tar sands pipeline in the United States.

In response to the decision, Sierra Club Conservation Programs Coordinator Elizabeth Ward issued the following statement:

"It is disappointing that the DNR ignored thousands of comments from the public and local communities demanding a full Environmental Impact Statement on the expansion of the tar sands pipeline. By increasing pressure and temperature, the likelihood of a rupture and possible impacts across Wisconsin increase as well. This proposal warrants a full study of the risk, potential impacts, and alternatives, complete with a public input process.

'By doing piecemeal permitting of the expansion, the public was completely cut out of the process, eliminating the ability of local residents, landowners, and community members to weigh in on a proposal that jeopardizes their drinking water, climate, recreational areas, and quality of life.'

###

Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.