



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 14, 2014

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Dane County Considers Performance Bond from Enbridge

Madison: The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee on Tuesday voted to direct staff to research requiring an insurance or performance bond of Enbridge Energy as part of a Conditional Use Permit. Enbridge, a Canadian corporation, has proposed tripling the capacity of its Line 61 from 400,000 to 1.2 million barrels of tar sands oil per day. Line 61 is an existing tar sands pipeline that runs through Dane County on its route from Superior to Flanagan, Illinois. The expansion proposal includes increasing horsepower to one of 12 pumping stations, which is located near the town of Medina in Dane County.

“This action signals that Dane County Zoning officials take seriously concerns expressed by citizens at the October 28 public hearing on the Line 61 expansion,” said Laura Hanson Schlachter, Co-Chair of 350 Madison, a local affiliate of the international climate action organization, 350.org.

“If Enbridge is successful, Line 61 would carry 45 percent more tar sands than the Keysone XL pipeline. Just as we fought to keep tar sands out of Nebraska and North Dakota, now it’s time to draw the line on tar sands in our own backyard” said Hanson Schlachter.

Among the concerns raised by Dane County citizens at the public hearing was the disastrous tar sands spill near Kalamazoo Michigan in 2010. Tar sands, which sinks in water, remains in the Kalamazoo River despite \$1 billion in cleanup expenses.

350 Madison member Peter Anderson told Dane County Zoning officials that the Kalamazoo area was not adequately insured to restore the land and water after the spill. “Because Enbridge has such a terrible safety record, Dane County has to be prepared for the likely eventuality that the pipeline across the northeast corner of the county, including crossing the Maunsha River, will rupture and leak. When that happens, Enbridge can be expected to minimize cleanup expenditures, which cut into their profits. By requiring a performance bond, we can at least insure that the funds will be available to restore the county’s land and water to their original condition,” said Anderson.

Elizabeth Ward of the Sierra Club described the scope of Enbridge Line 61. “Line 61 begins on the shores of Lake Superior, part of the Great Lakes network, which provides drinking water for 40 million people. It travels through Wisconsin, through the Wisconsin River, the Popple River, Rock River and many more critical waterways in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, the Kalamazoo spill was the world’s guinea pig that allowed us to learn that tar sands oil and water react in a way that we don’t know how to clean up. Wisconsin residents, economy and environment cannot afford to be the guinea pig for an unprecedented 1.2 million barrels-per-day tar sands pipeline,” said Ward.

The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee will consider the Enbridge Pipeline Conditional Use Permit again at a meeting on December 9, 2014.

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