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Enbridge seeks to make Wisconsin a superhighway for toxic oil transport

Madison: Today, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the permitting process for two proposed pipelines by Enbridge Energies. Both pipelines enter Wisconsin from Minnesota and go to the refinery in Superior. One pipeline, known as 'Sandpiper' carries Bakken oil (derived by hydrofracturing) from North Dakota to Superior. The other, 'Line 3' carries dangerous tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada to Superior. These lines feed Line 61, which travels through the heart of Wisconsin, which is in the process of tripling its capacity.

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

"We are glad to see that the DNR is accepting public comments on proposed pipeline projects, but it is very troubling that they've chosen to bundle Sandpiper and Line 3, dramatically different projects, into one evaluation. Enbridge has a track record that includes over 800 pipeline spills since 1999 in its Lakehead System and over 100 wetland violations during the construction of Wisconsin's Line 61 pipeline, as well as being responsible for the disastrous 2010 tar sands spill in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the effects of which are still being felt in the region. [Additionally, Enbridge has already announced plans to skirt the Federal permitting process by expanding the Line 3 pipeline in stages.](#)

Enbridge is working to make Wisconsin a super highway for oil transport, headed to the South, likely for export. Since we know we can't trust Enbridge to protect Wisconsin's air, water, and wetlands, the DNR should exercise extra caution when permitting these pipelines. Instead, the DNR is combining the public input process of these two projects (which could have different impacts based on the nature of the oil they are carrying), and are being complicit in Enbridge's permitting scheme, which could have serious consequences for the health and safety of our citizens and our environment. Though we appreciate the DNR taking public input, it's disappointing to see them take these short-cuts. These are two different projects and should have two different Environmental Impact Statements"

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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.