

# Midwest Environmental ADVOCATES

*pro bono publico*

## ENBRIDGE PIPELINE PROPOSAL E-Team Talking Points: November 2, 2006

### Overview

- By installing 2 new pipelines (one for oil, one for returning toxic chemicals used to dilute the oil), Enbridge will expand distribution of oil across Wisconsin by 400,000 barrels per day.
- The two proposed pipelines will extend 322 miles, from Superior to Delavan, Wisconsin. The actual pipelines will be placed in an existing right-of-way. However, the process of installing the pipelines will require Enbridge to clear a 100 ft area next to the 80 ft. right of way.
- Pipelines will be buried 6.5 feet deep with at least 3 ft. of soil as cover
- This is the first of two pipeline projects. The second project clears a new right-of-way from Delavan, WI to Chicago. The impacts of the second project are excluded from the current Environmental Assessment.
- Affected Counties: Douglas, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Chippewa, Taylor, Clark, Marathon, Wood, Adams, Marquette, Colombia, Dane, Jefferson, Rock

### What is lost?

- The construction activity will clear vegetation from:
  - 905 acres of wetlands (including 262 acres of forested wetlands)
  - 1,939 acres of public and private-owned forest land (257 acres of county-owned land)
- Other related construction activities will dredge 361 additional acres of wetlands
- Construction will remove vegetation from the up to 250 ft of river bank near each crossing. These areas will lose shade used by aquatic life and experience increased erosion.
- **Enbridge has no plans to re-vegetate the land.** Aside from planting grass seed, Enbridge is leaving the decision to replant trees and other vegetation up to the landowner.
- Re-vegetation could take decades, if it happens at all.

### What is threatened?

- 757 wetlands areas; including 62 wetlands considered to be of “special natural resource interest” occur within the project area (approximately 40,361 feet (7.6 miles)).
- 242 stream segments.
- 4 Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW); 7 Exceptional Resource Waters (ERW) (three of which will be crossed more than once); and 7 Navigable Waterways as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE).
- 18 trout streams, including 8 Class I trout streams, 6 Class II trout streams, and 4 Class III trout streams. (52).
- Bald eagle, Gray wolf, and Karner blue butterfly habitat
- At least 9 threatened and endangered plant species

### Spills?

- Since 1999, Enbridge says it experienced six spills in Wisconsin alone; the worst spilled 100,000 gallons, 18,000 gallons reached the frozen Nemadji River
- Since 1990, Enbridge pipelines have ruptured 8 times in Canada, spilling 3.3 million gallons of crude oil.
- In 2002, an Enbridge pipeline break in Cohasset, MN spilled 252,000 gallons of crude oil in to nearby natural areas.
- The proposed pipeline is immediately adjacent to power-lines for 44.4 miles. Stray voltage is suspected to corrode steel piping, increasing the risk of failure.
- 23 municipalities along the pipeline route obtain drinking water from groundwater sources that are located within about 2.0 miles of the pipeline route.

### Unknowns?

- DNR admits that current studies do not adequately assess:
  - Presence of threatened plant species in 14 of the 15 affected counties
  - Impact on three federally listed endangered animal species found near the pipeline right of way: Bald Eagle, Gray Wolf, and Karner blue butterfly. All species are known to be present in the area (Bald Eagles nests are estimated to be < 0.25 miles from the site of the new pipeline)
  - Extent that trout and other aquatic life will react to construction activities and pipeline’s presence

### DNR Conclusion:

No significant impacts; No need for an Environmental Impact Statement.

### **What Does Wisconsin Gain?**

- Enbridge says that it will hire “some” local labor to help build the pipeline, but cannot accurately estimate what percentage of the labor will be local. Generally, pipelines are built by specialized crews.
- Enbridge says that construction workers will increase sales from restaurants near the pipeline.
- All of the crude oil is going to be processed in Illinois.
- Timber that is harvested in county-owned forests yields tax revenue for the county residents. No agreements have been made to reimburse tax payers for the over 250 acres of timber that will be removed from County owned land.
- Essentially, the only recognized benefit to Wisconsin is the increase supply in gas—the same benefit received by other states across the country.

### **What Do We Want?**

DNR must conduct an Environmental Impact Statement that addresses local ecological impacts from loss of vegetation on nearly 3,000 acres of land and adequately analyzes the potential for spills. Additionally, we need to examine the need for increasing oil distribution by 400,000 barrels per day and what efforts are being made to reduce the demand for oil.

### **Who Should We Contact?**

- Jeff Schimpff/Office of Energy (OE) – DNR Project Manager
- County Supervisors—Tell them to say no to any county permits without an Environmental Impact Statement.
- Affected Counties: Douglas, Washburn, Sawyer, Rusk, Chippewa, Taylor, Clark, Marathon, Wood, Adams, Marquette, Colombia, Dane, Jefferson, Rock
- Bill Sande – Corps of Engineers Regulatory Project Manager, Hayward Field Office
- Jill Medland – National Park Service Resource Management Specialist, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway