



LINE 3 PIPELINE ABANDONMENT

What You Need To Know

WWW.PIPELINECLEANUPMN.ORG

SUMMARY:

Enbridge Energy has proposed to shut down and abandon its Line 3 crude oil pipeline, without addressing soil and water contamination or removing the pipe. This would pass on an enormous financial liability to landowners along the line, and to our children and grandchildren. The State of Minnesota has no plan to deal with this dangerous situation or to protect landowners from that liability. But community members across the north are coming together to demand that the State of Minnesota take action, so that individuals do not have to face this alone. Enbridge has a responsibility to put hard working Minnesotans to work cleaning up its mess. Our property rights, land, and fresh water are at stake.

DEATH OF A PIPELINE: Line 3 is one of 6 pipelines in Enbridge's Mainline system. It ships tar sands crude oil from Alberta to Superior, WI, crossing Northern Minnesota for 300 miles. Line 3 was built in 1961 and is now at the end of its life. According to Enbridge data, it currently has over 900 "structural integrity anomalies," including corrosion and long seam cracking. As a result, it has experienced a number of failures during its 55 years of history. Enbridge is now operating the line at reduced volumes and pressures, to reduce the chances of a catastrophic rupture. Fixing these "anomalies" is very expensive, so Enbridge wants to decommission and abandon the pipeline, walk away, and build a new one in a new corridor.

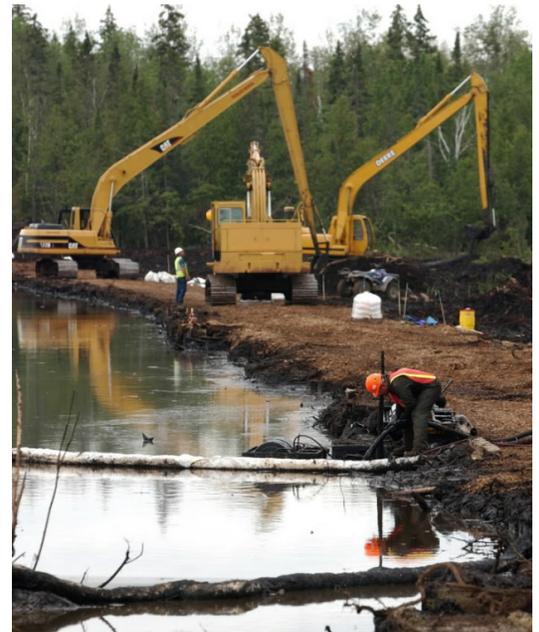
RISK AND LIABILITY: The pipeline likely has many sites of contaminated soil and water around it already, from old leaks and spills. There is likely also contamination from residual oil, lubricants, treatment chemicals, and pipeline coatings. When discovered, this could become the responsibility of landowners. And as it corrodes, the pipe will eventually become a water conduit that could easily drain a wetland or small lake, or flood a farm field.

NEED FOR REGULATION:

The US has vague, inadequate laws on pipeline abandonment, so the responsibility to protect landowners rests with the states. However, Minnesota has no abandonment regulations. The MN Public Utilities Commission does have the authority to regulate abandonment as part of the new Line 3 permitting process, but they will only do so if landowners demand it. Otherwise, if Enbridge is not required to remove the pipeline and restore the damaged ecosystems, there may never be a full accounting of the existing and future contamination. And this has never happened before in Minnesota, so if approved, it could set dangerous precedent that would then allow Enbridge to abandon the other 3 ancient pipelines in its Mainline corridor. In contrast, the National Energy Board of Canada thoroughly regulates all aspects of pipeline abandonment, and has ordered Enbridge to set aside nearly \$1 billion to pay for future removals and clean-ups. Minnesota could do the same, and that is an investment we deserve too.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Visit our website (www.pipelinecleanupMN.org) and contact us for more info and support
- Write and call your elected officials, especially Governor Dayton (651-201-3400)
- Talk to your neighbors, church groups, lake associations, etc.
- Write an op-ed in your local paper
- Join other landowners intervening in the MN Public Utilities Commission permit process for the new Line 3



Enbridge oil spill in Cohasset, MN, 2002