



## Line 66 Newsletter

Issue #2

March, 2018

This newsletter is a joint effort by the groups 80 Feet Is Enough! and Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance. It is also sent to all Wisconsin Easement Action Team (WEAT) members. We are all working together to fight against Enbridge's possible Line 66 (aka Line 61 Twin) pipeline and the use of eminent domain by Enbridge to acquire new easements for their expansion. Our intent is to provide you with information about recent developments regarding oil pipeline issues as well as related upcoming events. Visit [80feetisenough.org](http://80feetisenough.org), [wisconsinsafeenergy.org](http://wisconsinsafeenergy.org), and [wisconsineasementactionteam.org](http://wisconsineasementactionteam.org) for more information about each group.

### **80 Feet Is Enough! receives Sierra Club "Good Citizen" Award**

80 Feet Is Enough! board members Mark Borchardt and Keith Merkel traveled to Madison on Oct 7 to accept the *Good Citizen Award* from the John Muir chapter of the Sierra Club. 80 Feet is Enough! was nominated for the award because of its advocacy on behalf of landowners who would be negatively impacted by tar sands pipelines. On behalf of all 80FIE! supporters, a very sincere and humble "Thank you" from Mark and Keith for the nomination and award.



### **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Enbridge pipeline articles**

For those who may have missed them, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist Dan Egan has written a powerful, must-read four-part series on the status of the Enbridge pipeline system in the Great Lakes region, focusing on Wisconsin. The series can be found at <https://projects.jsonline.com/news/2017/1/15/path-of-least-resistance.html>.

### **Letters to the editor/emails/phone calls to legislators:**

We encourage everyone to consider writing a letter to the editor of their local newspaper and/or making phone calls or sending emails to their state representatives to explain their reasons for opposing Enbridge's new pipeline. Additionally, you can fill out our online petitions at [80feetisenough.org](http://80feetisenough.org). Contact information for Governor Walker and Wisconsin's state and federal elected officials can be obtained via the "Be Heard" tab on the home page of the website. **Contact us if you want help writing a letter-to-the-editor!**

## People Over Pipelines summit recap

Nearly 200 people attended the Friday night portion of the *People Over Pipelines: Protecting our Homes and Water* summit held in Marshfield October 25-27. Lac Courtes Oreilles Reservation resident and *News From Indian Country* and *Indian Country TV* Managing Editor and CEO Paul DeMain, and 80 Feet Is Enough! founder Mark Borchardt served as emcees for the event. Among the audience members were both young and old, environmental and climate activists, Native people, and concerned landowners and community members.

Former Ho Chunk President Jon Greendeer offered an opening prayer and spoke about the cultural significance of the land, water, food, and natural resources. Following was a “rapid fire” panel discussion featuring landowners and representatives from several grass roots environmental organizations.

Panel participants described how construction of a new Line 66 would affect them. Common themes were loss of Native culture, safety, clean water, homes, and property rights.

Next up were three representatives from the Youth Climate Intervenors, a group that has been granted formal legal status to participate in the Line 3 replacement process in Minnesota. It was refreshing to see such articulate, informed and passionate young people involved in the pipeline battle.

Finally, *Bold Alliance* and *Bold Nebraska* founder Jane Kleeb was the featured speaker for the evening, sharing inspiring and insightful stories of her organization’s pipeline fighting strategies, which have twice stopped the Keystone XL project in Nebraska.

Approximately seventy people, representing many different organizations, were present for the Saturday and Sunday events. Participants attended various workshops discussing such issues as eminent domain, safety concerns, media campaigns, engaging landowners, citizen intervention, fund-raising tips, and forming effective Native/non-Native alliances. Key opportunities for collaborating to stop Line 66 were identified and will be worked on by the group.

## Eminent domain resolution update

You may remember that the Wood County Board passed our eminent domain reform resolution back in August. Things have been moving along since then with the following recent actions having been taken:

**October 10-** resolution passed by Walworth County Board.

**November 14-** resolution introduced to Jefferson County Board. Enbridge showed up in force at the meeting and had legislative and manufacturing supporters write letters of opposition. The Board did not take action.

**December 14-** resolution passed by Town of Rome, Adams County.

**December 21-** initial meeting with Clark County Board; next step is to have a board member introduce resolution.

**January 6- “How to Pass a Resolution 101” event.** See below for details.

**February 8-** broader resolution asking for a three year moratorium on the use of eminent domain for private gain passed Rock County Department of Public Works Committee.

**February 22-** Rock County Board unanimously passed eminent domain moratorium resolution (22 of 28 supervisors present). Forty five supporters attended the meeting and fifteen spoke in favor of the resolution. Interestingly, no one from Enbridge spoke against the resolution, although at least two representatives were in attendance.

**“How to Pass a Resolution 101”** On January 6 a potluck lunch and meeting was held in Whitewater with landowners from Dane, Rock, and Jefferson counties to meet each other, create a plan to get a resolution passed, and to learn tips and tricks for the best way to testify and tell their story. We hope to do this in other parts of the state as well. **Contact us if you’d like to host one in your community!**

Check out the back of the newsletter for a few photos from the October pipeline summit and links to video from the event!

## **In-district meetings update**

**Senate District 24:** On March 6, ten concerned landowners met with Sen. Patrick Testin to share their concerns regarding the possible construction of Enbridge's new Line 66. Many emotional, frustrating, and even appalling encounters of past experiences with Enbridge representatives were shared. The most common theme among attendees was the need to revise Wisconsin's current eminent domain law. Our goal is that Sen. Testin takes up our call to sponsor legislation to remove the power of eminent domain from oil pipeline companies.

**Assembly District 69:** We will be meeting with Rep. Bob Kulp in April to address eminent domain. Rep. Kulp has indicated to us that he has given the matter some thought and has been working on some items to address the issue. Again, our intent is that Rep. Kulp will support us and sponsor legislation to remove the power of eminent domain from oil pipeline companies.

### **WEAT Participants:**

Please remember to contact us immediately if/when you are contacted by Enbridge land agents regarding new easements. And be sure to give the land agent a signed copy of the WEAT participant card you received upon joining WEAT.

Assuming Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approvals are granted in spring or summer this year, Enbridge will likely begin the easement procurement process in Wisconsin shortly thereafter.

*If you have been waiting on the sidelines before joining WEAT now is the time to join! Visit [wisconsineasementactionteam.org](http://wisconsineasementactionteam.org) to learn what services we can offer to landowners and to join our group.*

## **Upcoming Action**

2017 was filled with a lot of developments and work across Wisconsin to stop the pipeline. If you haven't seen it yet, check out [People Over Pipelines: Protecting Our Homes and Water 2017 Year in Review](#).

### ***We're not done yet!***

Here's what to expect in 2018:

- **Resolution campaign continues**- we hope to keep passing these throughout Wisconsin—*let us know if you want to pursue a resolution in your community!*
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual People on the Pipeline**- a statewide day of people gathering at their favorite recreational areas to enjoy the places at risk from the pipeline, including picnics, pedals (bike ride), paddles (canoeing and kayaking), pike fishing, and more! **Let us know if you'll help put on an event!**
- **WEAT "Meet and Greets"**- a series of "meet and greets" with attorney Brian Jorde for WEAT participants are being planned for late April. This will be a great opportunity to meet other participants as well as other affected landowners, share some food and stories, and visit with Brian. While still in the planning stages, we anticipate holding several events during Brian's visit.

*More details for all events will be announced as plans are finalized.*

## **Pipeline News**

Watching what happens with other pipelines gives us helpful information about how difficult it may (or may not) be for Enbridge to get the investment it needs to move forward on Line 66. There are currently two main tar sands pipelines proposed that would bring tar sands oil through the United States: Enbridge's Line 3, and TransCanada's Keystone XL. Two others, TransCanada's Energy East and Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain would be located entirely within Canada and terminate at the east and west coasts, respectively.



*Map from Mazaska Talks (mazaskatalks.org)*

### **Here's what's happening with those 4:**

#### **Energy East**

On October 5, TransCanada announced it was abandoning its proposed Energy East and Mainline projects. The \$15.7 billion Energy East project would have transported Alberta tar sands oil in a new pipeline across Canada to refineries in New Brunswick. Read about it here: <https://goo.gl/VUgB9f>

#### **Trans Mountain**

Alberta and British Columbia leaders continue their posturing in the battle over Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. The new pipeline will increase the amount of oil sent from the tar sands region of northern Alberta to a Vancouver-area terminal from the current 300,000 barrels/day to 890,000 barrels/day. The oil will be exported to Asian markets. The dispute centers on British Columbia's proposal to ban increased shipments of diluted bitumen until there is a better understanding of how spilled dilbit behaves in a marine environment, and assurances that shippers are prepared and able to properly clean up a spill. Recently, the federal government has entered the fray, with Natural Resources Minister Jim Carr declaring that the government will not allow British Columbia to "stall or stop" the project. More information can be found here:

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/federal-government-wont-let-bc-delay-trans-mountain-pipeline-expansion/article37955673/>, and here: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/future-of-trans-mountain-is-almost-certainly-going-to-be-determined-in-a-court-room/article37929235/>.



## **Keystone XL**

### **Keystone XL Approved- But With Major Route Change**

The Nebraska Public Service Commission (PSC) granted the route permit for the controversial Keystone XL tar sands pipeline on November 20 but dealt a major setback to Trans Canada by rejecting their preferred route, instead approving a route partially located well to the east. Trans Canada had previously stated that any alternate route would be unworkable.

The new route means that Trans Canada will now have to attempt to secure easements from several dozen new landowners. Bold Nebraska and the Nebraska Easement Action Team are actively working to inform landowners along the new route of their property rights, eminent domain, and easement terms. Affected landowners filed an appeal to the PSC's decision on December 27 challenging TransCanada's permit application seeking the power of eminent domain.

The new route is also opposed by environmental groups, as it would impact critical habitats for several species of endangered birds and fish. Jared Margolis, senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity had this to say: *"The new route for this disastrous pipeline puts more species at risk, and would be just as bad if not worse for people, wildlife, and our climate. Every way you look at it, Keystone XL is still an environmental nightmare waiting to happen."*

Trans Canada issued a short statement after the decision, saying they will determine their next steps after reviewing the PSC decision.

Most recently, on February 9, co-plaintiffs Bold Alliance, the Sierra Club and the Natural Resources Defense Council filed opening briefs in a lawsuit against the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for granting approvals prior to knowing the exact route the pipeline would follow.

These developments are the latest roadblocks in the approval process, dating to 2008 when the project was first proposed.

Read more about it all here: <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2017/11/icymi-nebraska-decision-major-setback-for-keystone-xl-pipeline>; **here:** <http://boldnebraska.org/bold-alliance-environmental-groups-call-on-trump-administration-to-evaluate-new-keystone-xl-route/> **here:** <http://boldnebraska.org/keystone-xl-partially-denied-landowners-vow-to-keep-fighting/> **and here:** <http://boldnebraska.org/bold-environmental-groups-file-opening-brief-in-legal-challenge-to-trumps-rubber-stamp-approval-of-keystone-xl/>

## **Line 3**

Line 3 is the most important for us to keep an eye on, because if Enbridge is allowed to replace the existing Line 3 in Minnesota, that means the additional oil coming into Superior will create the need for the Line 66 Pipeline through Wisconsin. The approval process for Enbridge's Line 3 replacement project has taken some unexpected twists and turns recently-some welcome, others not. Read on to find out how.

### **Department of Commerce testimony on Enbridge's request for Line 3 reconstruction**

**September 11-** The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) issued its recommendation to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding Enbridge's application for a Certificate of Need for the planned Line 3 reconstruction. The report *"concludes that Enbridge has not established a need for the proposed project in Minnesota as required under state rules"*. The report further states that *"in light of the serious risks and effects on the natural and socioeconomic environments of the existing Line 3 and the limited benefit that the existing Line 3*

*provides to Minnesota refineries, it is reasonable to conclude that Minnesota would be better off if Enbridge proposed to cease operations of the existing Line 3, without any new pipeline being built.” See the entire report here: <https://mn.gov/commerce/media/news/?id=310848>.*

### **Public Utilities Commission requests more environmental impact statement details from state agencies**

**December 7**-In a 4-1 vote, the PUC instructed the Department of Commerce and other involved state agencies to provide more information on three matters detailed in the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Line 3 replacement project. Additional details were requested for impacts on sensitive topography, drinking water and cumulative environmental issues. Additionally, a tribal cultural resource survey must be completed before any construction can begin.

The revised report was due to be issued in early February. The vote followed 22 public meetings in June, 8 public hearings before the Department of Commerce in September and October, and eleven days of evidentiary (court-like) hearings in November. Read more here: <https://www.twincities.com/2017/12/08/minnesota-puc-wants-more-details-on-line-3-oil-pipeline/>

### **Administrative Law Judge Extends Line 3 Briefing Schedule**

**December 21**- The Administrative Law Judge overseeing the Line 3 replacement project extended the final briefing schedule to allow all parties to address the revised-as directed by the PUC above- final, adequate Environmental Impact Statement. This outcome was another setback for Enbridge, as they fought hard against it. Read more about it: <https://www.ecowatch.com/enbridge-line-3-minnesota-2520471632.html>

*It was anticipated that this extension would add months to the approval timeline, **but then this happened**.....*

### **Public Utilities Commission rules on tribal cultural resource survey**

**February 22**- The PUC issued a ruling that- while still requiring a full Traditional Cultural Properties Survey be completed before pipeline construction begins- allows construction permits to be issued before the survey is completed. In other words- the findings of the survey will not be taken into account prior to the permitting decision being made. Margaret Levin, State Director for the Sierra Club North Star Chapter had this to say about the ruling: *“It is very disappointing that the PUC refuses to respect Tribal rights by including the Traditional Cultural Properties Survey in their Line 3 review. The PUC must make decisions based on the best interest of Minnesotans, not Enbridge, and that means ensuring that the public is given a full accounting of the risks of this dangerous and unnecessary project, including irreparable harm it could do to Tribal resources. Ignoring these impacts until a decision has already been made is deeply disrespectful to Tribal communities.”*

Find out more: <https://www.twincities.com/2018/02/01/lorentz-santos-minnesotas-standing-rock-moment/>; and more: <https://www.sierraclub.org/press-releases/2018/02/minnesota-puc-refuses-adequately-consider-cultural-impacts-line-3-tar-sands>

### **Public Utilities Commission Process Closes**

Final briefs were due in February. Those opposed to the pipeline filed over 1,000 pages of briefs. Here is a synopsis (and a link to the entire 1,000 pages): <https://www.stopline3.org/news/legalbriefs>.

The Administrative Law Judge is expected to make her final recommendation to the Public Utilities Commission in April. From there, the Public Utilities Commission will make their final ruling on the pipeline in June.

### **PUC approves Line 3 environmental review**

**March 15-** In a 5-0 vote, the PUC approved the final environmental review for the Line 3 pipeline, declaring it as “adequate”. This result was anticipated given the PUC’s previous ruling on the permitting process as described in the Feb. 22 account above. Read the article: <https://www.twincities.com/2018/03/15/regulators-ok-environmental-review-for-disputed-northern-minnesota-oil-pipeline/>

### **Red Lake Tribal Council votes to evict Enbridge from property**

**March 16-** The Red Lake Tribal Council voted unanimously to not allow four Enbridge pipelines to continue to cross an eight acre parcel of property they own. The pipelines were mistakenly installed on the property decades ago, but first became an issue about ten years ago. It is estimated that rerouting the lines around the property would cost Enbridge at least \$10 million. The full story is here: <http://www.startribune.com/red-lake-tribal-council-votes-to-oust-enbridge-from-its-land/477112713/>.

### **How many pipelines does Enbridge plan to build?**

An interesting development surfaced during the evidentiary hearings for the Line 3 project when it was revealed that at least one Minnesota landowner had signed easements with Enbridge for multiple new pipelines between 2014 and 2017. Despite this revelation, Enbridge continues to insist they have no plans for more than one new pipe in the Line 3 corridor. Read the entire article: <https://www.stopline3.org/news/howmanypipes>

### **Line 5 News**

Michigan officials and citizens continue to push back hard against Enbridge’s Line 5, installed under the Straits of Mackinac. ***It is important to note that Line 5 also affects Wisconsin, as it travels from Superior across the far northern tier of counties on its way to Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.*** In August, Enbridge publicly acknowledged for the first time- despite being aware of the problem since 2014- that several areas on the underwater pipes were missing their protective coating, exposing the bare metal beneath.

Michigan governor Rick Snyder commenting on Enbridge’s revelation: *“Enbridge’s announcement today about Line 5 is deeply concerning. While it does not indicate any imminent danger for the Great Lakes, this causes significant concern for the long term. I am no longer satisfied with the operational activities and public information tactics that have become status quo for Enbridge. It is vitally important that Enbridge immediately become much more transparent about the condition of Line 5 and their activities to ensure protection of the Great Lakes.”*

Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board member Mike Shriberg put it even more bluntly: *“The fact that Enbridge has known about these breaks in coating for years is, unfortunately, less surprising than it ought to be. It seems every month there is a new revelation about the deteriorating condition of Line 5 and Enbridge’s lack of transparency. This is the wrong pipeline in the wrong location operated by the wrong company. We cannot continue to allow this pipeline to jeopardize our Great Lakes.”* Read the full story at: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2017/10/27/enbridge-straits-pipeline-coating-michigan/807452001/>

### **Enbridge Line 5 analysis released**

The final report on alternatives to using Enbridge Energy's Line 5 to carry oil and natural gas under the Straits of Mackinac has been released. The report identifies six possible alternatives to the existing route as follows:

- 1- Construct one or more new pipelines that do not cross the Great Lakes and then decommission the segment of the existing pipelines under the Straits of Mackinac. ***Wisconsin's Line 61 Corridor is a likely - and the least expensive- option for this alternative.***
- 2- Reroute the oil through existing pipeline infrastructure that does not cross the open waters of the Great Lakes and then decommission the existing Straits pipelines. ***Again, the Line 61 corridor could be used in this alternative.***
- 3- Use trucks, rail cars, oil tankers or barges to transport the oil and decommission the existing Straits pipelines. Wisconsin's rail system could be heavily impacted under this alternative.
- 4- Replace Line 5 in the Straits with (a) a trench on the lakebed or (b) a tunnel under the lakebed.
- 5- Do nothing—continue operating Line 5 as is.
- 6- Discontinue transporting oil and natural gas in Line 5 through the Straits of Mackinac and decommission that segment.

The complete 379-page report can be found here: <https://mipetroleumpipelines.com/>

### **Congressional legislation introduced**

Michigan Congressman Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives that would require better and more frequent reports from Enbridge about the Line 5 pipeline. It would also require that Enbridge adopt recommendations in response to the reports. He stated *"One of the largest threats facing our Great Lakes is an oil spill and it is imperative we have safeguards in place to minimize the risk."* Read more: <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/01/19/mike-bishop-great-lakes-pipeline-safety-bill/1047410001/>

### **Enbridge in the news**

#### **Enbridge expected to be winner in race to move oil out of Canada**

A January 11 article in *Seeking Alpha* projects that Enbridge will be the first company to complete a new pipeline (Line 3) moving oil out of Canada into the U.S. The article states that with increasing output of tar sands oil and current infrastructure near capacity, the need is greater than ever for new pipelines. According to the article, existing pipelines will likely run out of capacity this year.

In fact, Enbridge is currently working on replacing Line 3 in Canada. And, as we have seen above, the approval process for the Line 3 replacement in Minnesota is well underway. Add it all up and this is further confirmation that, despite Enbridge's denials, they will have a "need" to build the new Line 66 through Wisconsin to accept the additional oil that will be coming through Line 3. More details here: <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4137073-enbridge-likely-winner-race-build-next-pipeline-canada>

*"The fact that Enbridge has known about these breaks in coating for years is, unfortunately, less surprising than it ought to be. It seems every month there is a new revelation about the deteriorating condition of Line 5 and Enbridge's lack of transparency. This is the wrong pipeline in the wrong location operated by the wrong company. We cannot continue to allow this pipeline to jeopardize our Great Lakes."*

Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board member Mike Shriberg



## **Enbridge 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2017 financial results and business update report released**

Enbridge's 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2017 business report was released on Feb. 16. Some interesting highlights:

- Slide #7- "Enbridge system optimized and operating at full capacity"
- Slide #8- "Mainline will remain highly utilized and has options for further expansion"
- Slide #12- Line 3 replacement: "Expected in-service date in the second half of 2019"

**While not as obvious as last year's infamous "Line 61 Twin" slide which provided specific project details, these comments, as well as the evidence presented above, point to the expected construction of Line 66.**

The full report here: <https://seekingalpha.com/article/4147566-enbridge-inc-2017-q4-results-earnings-call-slides>

## **Enbridge stock price decline continues**



As the graph above shows, Enbridge's stock price has declined by two-thirds over the past two years.

## **Enbridge affected by FERC decision to end tax benefit**

On March 15 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ruled to discontinue an income tax allowance previously utilized by some pipeline companies, including Enbridge. Enbridge's stock price fell by 17% after the announcement. Read more about it: [https://www.wsj.com/articles/federal-regulators-end-key-tax-benefit-for-certain-pipeline-companies-1521140209?shareToken=stdcb7da73d36545b197d31300fb900680&reflink=article\\_email\\_share](https://www.wsj.com/articles/federal-regulators-end-key-tax-benefit-for-certain-pipeline-companies-1521140209?shareToken=stdcb7da73d36545b197d31300fb900680&reflink=article_email_share)

## **Pipeline builders changing tactics**

An article in the January 17, 2018 edition of the Wall Street Journal by Christopher M. Matthews and Lynn Cook described how some pipeline companies, including Enbridge, are changing tactics to complete expansions despite heavy opposition by opponents.

The authors note that "As environmentalists and local activists make it extraordinarily difficult to build new oil and gas lines, energy companies are working around the opposition by supersizing old pipes that already crisscross parts of the continent. For decades, new pipeline projects rarely drew attention, much less ire. "We used to just show up with a map," said Al Monaco, president and chief executive of Enbridge.

Skipping new lines—and the environmental reviews and taking of land by eminent domain that they often require—and instead working under existing permits and rights of way is just common sense, said Mr. Monaco, who added that it is often a far less expensive approach. "Once the pipe is in the ground, you can do a lot of things: reverse flows, expand it, optimize it," he added.

Pipeline expansions may help explain why, despite the Trump administration's recent approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, TransCanada has yet to make a final decision about moving forward. While the project was stranded in regulatory limbo for years during the Obama administration, Enbridge quietly cobbled together two existing oil lines to create the first sizable spigot to bring Canadian crude to Texas. Its retooled network can move nearly 600,000 barrels a day to Gulf Coast refiners and foreign buyers.

Enbridge is also pursuing a combination of other pipeline expansions that together could add another 800,000 barrels a day of capacity to bring Canadian crude south at a cost of just \$1.3 billion. That is roughly the same volume Keystone XL would carry—at a price tag more than 80% lower.

Further east, Enbridge is also supersizing its natural-gas network across the northeastern U.S. from the shale fields of Pennsylvania to Boston to Halifax, in Canada. Where there was once a 26-inch-diameter pipeline carrying shale gas into New England, there is now a new, 42-inch pipeline in a right of way the company secured by buying out rival pipeline operator Spectra Energy Corp. last year”.

**We have to wonder:** *Is Enbridge considering replacing the 50 year old Line 6A in the existing right of way with the new Line 66?*

## **More pipeline news**

### **Leaked draft infrastructure plan includes major “gift” to oil/gas industry**

A leaked draft infrastructure plan obtained by the Washington Post shows that the Trump administration is considering a major change to the approval process regarding pipelines crossing National Park Service lands. Currently, any pipeline crossing these lands must be approved by Congress through the legislative process. The draft plan proposes that this authority be removed from Congress and placed in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior, a politically appointed rather than elected position, with no accountability to the public.

This decision, if implemented, has direct implications for Wisconsin, as the Enbridge right-of-way crosses the St. Croix River- a designated National Wild and Scenic River, and thus, part of the National Park Service.

Raul Garcia, senior legislative counsel with Earthjustice had this to say about the proposal: *“This isn’t substantive and well-thought-out. It’s just another political favor for an industry that is well-positioned within the administration.”*

Read the entire article: <https://thinkprogress.org/trump-infrastructure-plan-pipelines-through-national-parks-c2d8a57ff5dd/>

### **Federal support for oil spill fund expired at year’s end**

A 9-cent per-barrel excise tax on all American crude oil expired at the end of the year. The monies collected by the tax are the primary means of funding the nation’s oil-spill response fund and help to pay for cleanup costs for spills from pipelines, refineries, oil wells, and ships.

Although the party responsible for a spill is supposed to be liable for clean-up costs, companies or individuals are frequently unable to cover the entire cost of cleaning even a minor spill, thus the need for the excise tax.

According to Bill Grawe, director of the fund’s managing agency, the fund currently contains approximately \$5.7 billion. Without continued funding, that amount will dwindle as money is spent on future cleanups. In addition to spill cleanups, the program also funds pipeline safety efforts, aircraft upgrades for the Coast Guard, and liability claims associated with spills.

In 2015 the fund paid over \$225 million in major expenses, or those costing \$250,000 or more. Included in those expenses was money used to pay claims for the Enbridge spill cleanup in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan.

Retired University of Alaska Anchorage professor and Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility board member Rick Steiner estimates that oil companies may save as much as \$500 million per year by not having to pay the tax. Steiner has described allowing the tax to expire as a “spectacularly fumbled ball by Congress.”

The full report can be seen here:

[https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/NPFC/docs/PDFs/Reports/OSLTF\\_Report\\_FY15%20.pdf?ver=2017-08-15-124854-987](https://www.uscg.mil/Portals/0/NPFC/docs/PDFs/Reports/OSLTF_Report_FY15%20.pdf?ver=2017-08-15-124854-987)

### **PowerPoint presentation reveals gas industry's plan for waging pipeline fights**

Your Energy, a front group for the American Gas Association, claims to have recruited around 10,000 supporters to advocate for its member companies and to push back against those concerned about the threats new pipelines pose to increasing climate change, environmental damage and reduced landowners' property rights.

Included among the campaign's stated goals are to:

- Distribute information to supporters and influencers through digital and social media
- Target supporter and persuadable audiences to move and solidify support
- Develop advocates
- Track and respond to opposition activity and messaging via a “Digital War Room”

To read the entire article, including links to a related Enbridge presentation and the Your Energy presentation see

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/your-energy-pipelines\\_us\\_5a25a649e4b03c44072fa1d0](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/your-energy-pipelines_us_5a25a649e4b03c44072fa1d0)

### **Steel tariffs, NAFTA negotiations add uncertainty/cost to pipeline projects**

The recently announced tariffs on imported steel and aluminum along with uncertainty about the ongoing NAFTA negotiations have begun to worry pipeline executives and elected officials. A March 10 article in Politico details some of their concerns. For example, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski said the tariffs could add up to \$500 million to the cost of a proposed 800-mile gas pipeline in the state. *"This is not coming at a good time for us"* she said. It remains to be seen how these factors will actually affect current and future projects. Find out more:

<https://www.politico.com/story/2018/03/10/trump-oil-industry-energy-404001>

*"...in light of the serious risks and effects on the natural and socioeconomic environments of the existing Line 3 and the limited benefit that the existing Line 3 provides to Minnesota refineries, it is reasonable to conclude that Minnesota would be better off if Enbridge proposed to cease operations of the existing Line 3, without any new pipeline being built."*

Minnesota Department of Commerce recommendation to MN Public Utilities Commission

# People Over Pipeline Summit Photos/Video Links



WEAT attorney Brian Jorde addresses summit attendees.



Summit co-emcees Mark Borchardt (l) and Paul DeMain.



Brian Jorde and Jane Kleeb share information about their efforts working against the Keystone XL pipeline.

You can watch a short, 6-minute synopsis of the summit here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlnVzF37yKU&feature=youtu.be>

Watch the entire Friday night presentation here (thanks to Indian Country TV):

<http://www.indiancountrynews.com/index.php/tv/14462-people-over-pipelines-notice-of-live-broadcast>