

NEWS RELEASE



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LANDOWNERS FILE SUIT AGAINST ENBRIDGE TO FORCE IMPOSITION OF INSURANCE REQUIREMENT BEFORE EXPANDING PIPELINE FLOW

This afternoon, seven Dane County landowners filed suit in Dane County Circuit Court to force the Enbridge pipeline company to provide \$25 million in clean up insurance before increasing capacity of the largest tar sands oil pipeline in the US. "Enbridge's bullying tactics met their match today, as seven Dane County citizens took their safety into their own hands," said 350 Madison spokesperson, Ben Peterson.

Enbridge hopes to triple the capacity of Pipeline 61 to 1.2 million barrels of tar sands oil per day by upgrading pumping stations along its route across Wisconsin from Superior to refineries in Texas. In the spring of 2015, the climate action group 350 Madison successfully argued for inclusion of the \$25 million insurance provision in arguments before the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee. In July, the GOP controlled legislature passed a law prohibiting counties from requiring pipeline insurance.

Peterson explained that Enbridge's efforts to triple the capacity of its dirty tar sands pipeline through Dane County poses substantial risks to taxpayers and the environment. "Yet," he said, "efforts by the Dane County Zoning Committee to protect local citizens, their well-being, and the environment by requiring that Enbridge purchases clean-up insurance have been steamrolled by the Canadian behemoth exploiting its political clout.

"That gut punch to the integrity of our political institutions occurred in the dark of night when the company, or someone acting on its behalf, lobbied key legislators to include an 11th hour budget amendment that sought to override the county's insurance requirement." Peterson said. "Fortunately, the lobbyists involved were in such a hurry to avoid public scrutiny of their actions that the language they inserted failed to address a key point. Even though the bill prevents the *county* from enforcing its zoning requirements, *concerned citizens* are still able to protect themselves by demanding the enforcement of the zoning regulations. Today, seven citizens stood up and made that demand."

The seven Dane County plaintiffs live within 350 yards of the pipeline and are near neighbors to the pumping station in the Town of Medina. The upgraded Waterloo Pump Station will increase the capacity of the underlying 42-inch diameter pipeline,

which is larger than any other oil pipeline in the U.S., from 560,000 to 1.2 million barrels per day of hazardous bitumen from the Alberta tar sands through the Midwest to Gulf Coast refineries for export.

For tar to flow through a pipe, it must be combined with toxic and volatile diluents, heated and forced under pressure, which the new pump station will increase to 1,200 pounds per square inch. That creates additional abrasive and corrosive stresses on the pipeline, through which 2.1 million gallons will flow each hour, increasing the risk of major oil spills. When a tar sands oil spill occurs in waterways, the volatile diluents have been observed to evaporate, and, unlike conventional oil that floats in water, the bitumen sinks, making cleanups extraordinarily difficult and expensive.

Enbridge has been responsible for 800 oil spills, including the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 2010. That spill continued for 17 hours before the pipeline was finally shut down, causing \$1.2 billion in damages. The Chair of the National Transportation Safety Board that reviewed the accident likened "Enbridge's poor handling" of the spill to the Keystone Kops, pointing to the extreme length of time it took to shut down the pipeline and the fact that the company knew the pipe was cracked and corroding five years earlier when 15,000 defects in the pipe had been observed, yet nothing had been done to repair the pipe.

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