



NEWS RELEASE



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Hundreds Speak Out Against More Tar Sands Pipelines in Wisconsin

MADISON: The public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) closes today. The DEIS analyzes Enbridge Energy's proposal to build two new pipelines in Wisconsin. One, the Sandpiper pipeline, would bring in oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota. The other, the Line 3 Replacement, would 'replace' an existing tar sands pipeline, but be double the size. Together, the pipelines would bring over a million barrels per day of oil into Wisconsin. Over 1,400 public comments have been made to the DNR from Sierra Club and 350 Madison members and supporters expressing their concerns.

Many of the comments criticized the study for being incomplete. "Though the study only looked at 14 miles of these pipeline proposals, the reality is that this oil will not stay in Superior and instead will travel through the heart of Wisconsin, down south, much of which will likely be exported through a new, downstream pipeline," said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator for the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter in Wisconsin. "The downstream pipeline will threaten some of Wisconsin's most important waterways, including the St. Croix River, Wisconsin River, and Rock River. The DNR's study ignored the multitude of impacts the downstream pipeline will have on Wisconsin even though the downstream pipeline won't exist without these two new pipelines," stated Ward. The study also did not consider the upstream effects. The Minnesota Department of Commerce just began their study on these pipelines that travel through Northern Minnesota before entering Wisconsin.

The Sierra Club is partnering with 350 Madison and other groups to bring [Jane Klee, founder of Bold Nebraska, to Madison](#). She'll be speaking Wednesday in Madison. "People from across the state are joining forces to fight more oil pipelines in Wisconsin. The multitude of comments that have been submitted to the DNR show how much concern there is across Wisconsin over these pipelines," said Mary Beth Elliott of the climate change group, 350 Madison, "these pipelines are all risk with no reward."

"Wisconsin doesn't need these pipelines, we can't afford the risk of these pipelines on our waterways, and the comments submitted prove that Wisconsin doesn't want these pipelines," concluded Ward.

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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.

Madison 350 is the local branch of 350.org, an international grassroots organization that is mobilizing a global climate movement. 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO2 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. To get there, we need a different kind of ppm - a "people powered movement."