



NEWS RELEASE

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Enbridge Pipeline 61 Opening

(MEDINA) After a 3-year long fight, the Enbridge pipeline company received its final permit from Dane County for its Waterloo pumping station in the town of Medina on Thursday.

350-Madison spokesperson, Peter Anderson, responded by reaffirming that “Enbridge has remained in climate activists’ bulls eye throughout.”

“For one thing,” said Anderson, the permit only came after a protracted battle, which Enbridge was in danger of losing, when some unknown party appears to have traded political contributions for an 11th hour state budget amendment intended to override the right of counties to require clean up insurance.”

“For another,” he said, “we are litigating against this budget amendment in the courts. Moreover, this expansion of Enbridge’s existing tar sands pipeline #61 was just a trial run for the far bigger fight coming in 2018 when this company, with the very worst safety record, plans to build a whole new tar sands oil pipeline.”

“In 2011, climate organizations across the country began opposing pipelines intended to open up the landlocked Alberta tar sands oil deposits for exploitation, beginning with Transcanada’s Keystone XL pipeline. At the same time as scientists warn we have 20-30 years to wean ourselves off of fossil fuels, the increasingly obsolete oil industry is irrationally seeking to open up this whole new oil field, third only to Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, which releases about four times the greenhouse gas emissions per barrel as conventional oil,” Anderson said.

After the Keystone XL pipeline through the Great Plains faced defeat, Enbridge sought to exploit that opening by expanding its tar sands oil pipelines through the Midwest, including Wisconsin.

“If we are to protect a livable world for our children and grandchildren,” he/she said, “this insanity has to stop. Yet with gridlock in Washington, that means citizens locally must stand up and act.”

“We will fight Enbridge in the zoning hearings, we will grapple with them in the courts, we will battle them in the legislature, and, if necessary when all that is exhausted, we will lay our bodies down against their bulldozers in the path of the next pipeline. But, to protect our children, we can never surrender, and no more Enbridge pipelines will be built though Wisconsin,” Anderson said.

350 Madison Climate Action Team 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.

Learn more: <http://350madison.org/>