



SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

PUC Docket# 13 - 474

March 21, 2014

Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 – 7th Place East; Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Mr. Hartman,

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) is to protect and improve the waters and shorelands in the State of Minnesota.

We are aware Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership doing business as North Dakota Pipeline Company has applied to the State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for permission to construct and operate a new crude oil pipeline called the Sandpiper Pipeline. This construction is scheduled to begin in 2015 and would carry 375,000 barrels of light sweet crude oil per day from the Bakken Shale Oil formation in North Dakota across Minnesota to an Enbridge shipping terminal in Superior, Wisconsin.

A significant portion of the Sandpiper Crude Oil Pipeline's proposed route crosses the Mississippi River immediately below Itasca State Park and near many of the highest quality lakes and marshes in northern Minnesota.

The Minnesota Public Utility Commission has scheduled public meetings, hearings and public comment periods on the proposed Sandpiper and the public comment period which ends on April 4th, 2014.

Many Minnesota COLA members own property along the proposed route and would be very interested in learning more about the route, alternatives to the route and how lakes and marshes of concern to them might be affected by the proposed crude oil pipeline.

Additionally, many Minnesota COLA members interested in learning about and/or participating in the public review of this crude oil pipeline are seasonal residents in Minnesota and are either unaware of the proposal or unable to fully participate in the public review process.

Therefore the Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) petitions the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to extend the public comment period and hold additional public informational meetings and hearings during a period that is more inclusive of its members and requests that the opportunity for full public education about and participation in the permitting process for the Sandpiper Crude Oil Pipeline not end until July 1, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas K. Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Thomas K. Nelson
President

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) • P.O. Box 1802 • Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
MinnesotaCOLA@gmail.com

Minnesota Coalition of Lake Associations (MN COLA) is a statewide citizen network of County Lake and River Associations, representing the interests of over 40,000 lakeshore property owners, organized to protect and improve the waters and shorelands of the State of Minnesota.