

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Janaki Fisher-Merritt <janaki@foodfarm.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 11:14 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Cc: Hartman, Larry (COMM)
Subject: Public comment, docket #13-473 and 13-474

Janaki Fisher-Merritt
2612 County Road 1
Wrenshall, MN 55797

April 3, 2014

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: NDPC Sandpiper Pipeline Route & Certificate of Need, Docket Number 13-474 & 13-473

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

I own and operate the Food Farm, a 360 acre certified organic vegetable farm located in Wrenshall, 10 miles southwest of Duluth. The Food Farm has raised vegetables since 1975, has been certified organic since 1990 and in 1993 became the first Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm serving the Duluth area. The Food Farm currently serves nearly 400 CSA members as well as the Whole Foods Co-op, Duluth Grill, Chester Creek Café, Essentia Health, University of Minnesota Duluth, and many other food-related businesses. The farm and our family have received many awards over the years, most recently the 2013 Soil Health Conservationist from the Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District and Farmer of the Year in 2010 by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, awarded at the largest organic farming conference in the United States. I have been a presenter at the MOSES conference, the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota annual meeting, the Minnesota Organic Farming Conference, the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association conference and many other workshops and educational events. I graduated Magna cum Laude with a B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology from Carleton College in 1999. I became active in the Wrenshall community upon returning to full-time farming in 2000 and have served on the Carlton County Economic Development Advisory Committee, the Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Association board and a number of other committees. I have been the secretary of the Wrenshall Community Development Corporation since 2003 and a member of the Wrenshall School Board of Education since 2004, currently serving as treasurer. My wife and I started the Free Range Film Festival in 2004, showing independent film in our barn each July.

Food, community, and responsible stewardship have been the focus of my past two decades being directly involved in the farm, and I am thrilled to be joined by new farmers whose produce graces dinner tables each night in the Duluth area. I'm proud to be part of an active network of existing farmers that support and welcome new adherents to sustainable farming.

People are discovering that knowing your farmer not only results in better food but revitalizes our farming communities and supports an ethic of stewardship. Consumers become invested in the health of the land that grows their dinner, and farmers feel a responsibility to grow the healthiest produce because it goes to people, not just a system.

It's no accident that the farms providing the majority of local produce for the Duluth area are in Carlton County. This area is blessed with prime farm land that is the most productive in the region — and we need all of these farm

acres to satisfy the growing demand from restaurants, institutions and families. Proximity to the population centers of Duluth, Superior, and Cloquet is also critical for those of us engaged in direct-to-consumer sales.

In the past few years an infrastructure that provides training, advice, and supportive resources necessary to introduction of sustainable farming practices has developed in this area. The Lake Superior Sustainable Farming Association's Farm Beginnings course, and the activities of the Carlton County Extension Service and the Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District are all key examples of this support network, as are the consumer-led initiatives led by the Whole Foods Co-op, Duluth Grill, Chester Creek Café, and the Institute for a Sustainable Future's Food Hub pilot project with UMD and Essentia Health. Twenty area businesses have signed the Superior Compact 20% by 2020 local food purchasing commitment.

Geographical characteristics are also key to the success of sustainable farming. Situated at the tip of the Lake Superior flyway, this region is home to hundreds of species of resident and migratory birds, and a high level of wildlife and plant diversity. Agricultural fields that are large enough to support commercial farming operations yet small enough to benefit from the pest and disease control benefits of these diverse surroundings are a critical component to the success of sustainable farming operations. These unique habitats ought to be seen as valuable natural resources that deserve protection on their own, such as, loss of habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler along the proposed route. However, they also serve as essential support networks for this new and growing class of agricultural enterprise. A new corridor cutting through wooded, wetland, and farmland areas not previously affected by the existence of a pipeline would be extremely concerning in this context.

Production of fresh market organic vegetables is particularly demanding of top-quality soil, extremely sensitive to degradation of soil health from pipeline construction, and especially reliant on stable, high quality surroundings to encourage beneficial birds and insects. Through our advocacy work with Land Stewardship Project, the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service, Center for Rural Affairs, the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota and others I am part of a wide network of farmers throughout the upper Midwest, and to my knowledge there is no successful organic vegetable operation that farms over an oil pipeline.

The preferred route submitted on 11/8 was sited just to the north and west of our property. This was extremely concerning to me for a number of reasons. First, clearing the neighboring property would be disruptive to the ecosystem services provided by the natural habitat located there and increase wind erosion. Second, I am concerned that drift from herbicides used to maintain that right of way could compromise our organic status. Instituting a wide buffer zone on that border and planting windbreaks would result in a loss of productive land. Finally, because of the nonproliferation principal that is for the most part ignored in this application, the next pipeline, such as the Line 3 replacement announced for 2017 would likely be sited adjacent to Sandpiper on our certified organic land. The impact of crude oil pipelines on organic land is well documented in the MinnCan case (PUC docket #05-2003), and also by experts such as Allen Phillo from Midwestern BioAg who have submitted comments in this case. Should this crude oil pipeline be sited directly adjacent to our certified organic land would make the type of long-term crop rotation and land-use planning that is necessary for successful organic production extremely difficult.

My concern is not simply for our own farm, but the development of sustainable agriculture across our region. Northern Minnesota is in short supply of prime farmland, and any damage to new parcels that have not previously seen pipeline construction should be taken very seriously. Prime farm lands are valuable natural resources that must be protected. Damage to these resources cannot be compensated for, and there is no way to damage it in one place and replace it elsewhere. It is insufficient to mitigate damage through the APP; instead, pipeline routes must avoid crossing prime farmland whenever possible, particularly in areas that are seeing significant increases in land becoming organic. Because organic farms are sensitive ecosystems, expanding the number of parcels affected by pipeline construction by allowing a proliferation of pipeline corridors has a direct impact on the limited acreage available for organic and sustainable farmland development and has an immediate impact on the areas economic and social development that has significant long-term consequences.

Finally, agricultural production, particularly organic farming and particularly in sensitive areas such as northern Minnesota, is heavily reliant on a network of other farmers and supportive institutions, businesses and consumers

to be successful. The most successful hubs of organic production are formed when a critical mass of these factors come together to promote each other and the wider goals of food and community. The Blackhoof/Carlton/Wrenshall area near Duluth is one of those burgeoning hubs of activity, with new farmers supported by a network of existing farmers, retail businesses, non-profits, restaurants and local governments that all value the principals of local food and the community and connection that develops when a critical mass of rural residents are able to make a living from their own land. Because there is limited supply of land suitable to this type of production, this critical mass is endangered by new pipeline proposals, particularly those that seek routes that do not follow existing pipelines. It is not simply the agricultural system that is degraded, but also the social fabric of rural communities when proposals like that of the applicant are introduced with no regard to the impacts specific to each area and the special qualities of each property.

The applicant's EIR makes no mention of organic agriculture or any of these current or future land use impacts, which are important factors in pipeline routing decisions. It purports to contain a detailed description of natural resources but does nothing of the kind, simply listing animals which typically would live in agricultural, wooded, or wetland areas. (This list includes possums, which absolutely do not exist in our area. This reminds me of BP's spill response plan for the Gulf of Mexico that included protection for walrus.) For all of the time their survey crews spent in our area, I am shocked at the lack of specificity contained in the application. A great deal of information was provided to the applicant by myself and my neighbors, which makes the lack of information on organic farming or the associated cultural, economic, and social impacts of pipeline construction through areas critical for continued growth in local food production all the more disconcerting. The DOC and PUC should deny NDPC's application for a routing permit based solely on the lack of specificity in required information on impacts on its proposed routes and route alternatives. Again, ample information was provided to the applicant during their route selection process and the fact that none of this has apparently made it into the application before the commission indicates a disregard for the seriousness of this process. The burden of proof must lie with the applicant as it proposes to create a new industrial facility stretching hundreds of miles through primarily privately-owned lands. The applicant has in no way met that burden of proof. The public, through the PUC, DOC, and private landowner groups, ought not to bear the effort and expense of gathering a sufficient quantity of evidence to flesh out this application; the only reasonable response is to deny the route application.

With that having been said, I support the current preferred route as a significant improvement over the Carlton County Alternative. This route is a better option for preserving valuable natural resources including undisturbed farmland, woods, and wetlands because it more closely follows other pipelines through our area. However, I believe the route most in keeping with the principal of non-proliferation, and the least damaging to natural resources is the Northern Route, which follows Enbridge's mainline system all the way from Clearbrook rather than just the last few miles of the route. No significant evidence has been presented of a concerted effort on the part of NDPC or Enbridge to negotiate to acquire easements across the tribal lands that are cited as the main impediment to that route. In my understanding, Minnesota's policy of non-proliferation overarches other siting criteria. Quoting from the 1978 PEER case that codified this principal, the PUC must "choose a pre-existing route unless there are extremely strong reasons not to do so. We reach this conclusion partly because the utilization of a pre-existing route minimizes the impact of a new intrusion by limiting its effects to those who are already accustomed to living with an existing route." The mainline route runs less than two miles from my home. These folks are my friends and neighbors, and I wouldn't wish another line to take more of their farmland either, but the fact remains that they have had to accommodate existing pipelines, and it would be much less of an impact to add another than to cut through previously undisturbed area.

Enbridge appears to address the nonproliferation issue in its preferred route and alternative southern routes by making extensive use of electrical transmission line rights of way as they traverse the area east of Clearbrook. I would argue that while this is preferable to crossing greenfield areas, the impact of power line construction and maintenance is substantially different than that of crude oil pipelines. The environmental impact of constructing poles and towers spaced hundreds of feet apart clearly differs from the massive soil disturbance of the 120' wide workspace required with pipeline construction, particularly on wetland and agricultural soils. Landowners on power lines do not have to contend with the possibility of a leak that could make their land permanently toxic or contaminate their drinking water. On the other hand, power lines cause more problems with sightlines and visual pollution than buried pipelines. One must conclude that while ROW sharing is certainly preferable to greenfield

development, to be consistent with the principal of non-proliferation and the rationale behind it, pipelines should be routed alongside other pipelines to the greatest extent possible. The applicant makes no distinction between different types of rights of way. This is unacceptable because there are clear differences in the environmental and socioeconomic impacts between different types of rights of way. The PUC and DOC should compel NDPC to provide detailed information on types of right of way shared by each route proposal and the differing impacts should be fully examined as part of their application. Furthermore, the PUC and DOC should request analysis from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the impacts expected from pipeline vs. power line development on agricultural land.

Finally, I would ask that the PUC strongly consider the No Action Alternative and deny the Certificate of Need for this project. The applicant has not shown that this project will benefit the people of Minnesota. According to the June 2013 Legislative report on petroleum infrastructure, all the refineries in Minnesota and neighboring states are currently running at capacity with domestic crude oil. Enbridge's mainline system already delivers 2.3 million barrels per day to its Superior Terminal, while the refinery there can only process 45,000 barrels per day. There is no comprehensive plan for transporting oil out of the Bakken Shale or the Alberta Tar Sands, and Larry Hartman noted this difference at the hearing in Carlton on March 13th (see transcript, p. 72): "...electric utilities only build facilities that are initially approved...by the Midwest Independent System Operator. So in that sense the utilities are heavily regulated. There's no such kind of overview or planning agency for pipelines, it's more of a free market situation."

With well over one million barrels per day of increased capacity through northern Minnesota being requested just in the last few years (Alberta Clipper expansion, Sandpiper, and Line 3 replacement), and a lot more production forecast to be coming from these regions we desperately need a bigger picture view of this issue to be able to properly balance the needs of environmental conservation with crude oil transport. Minnesota state statute calls for 15% reduction in fossil fuel use by 2015 and 25% renewable energy by 2025. Minnesotans should be rewarded for their ongoing efforts to conserve energy and produce more renewables, rather than compromising our own precious natural resources so others can continue to consume.

Northern Minnesota already serves as a major transportation corridor for crude oil, natural gas, and electricity for other parts of the nation and region. Many farms in my area contain between 6 and 13 different petroleum pipelines. Shale gas, shale oil, and tar sands bitumen are potentially such game-changers from an energy standpoint that the old way of piecemeal free-market development of energy transportation infrastructure is no longer sufficient to protect the environment and communities of northern Minnesota. The environment of our area has sacrificed so much already, Enbridge should certainly not be allowed to proliferate a new route onto an entirely new set of land owners. Private property rights are among the most precious in our nation. If the State of Minnesota is to authorize a private company to take land through eminent domain it should be absolutely sure that the project is essential for the people of Minnesota, that the route causes the least damage possible, and that it is a part of a comprehensive plan for future development. Because none of these requirements are in place, the PUC should deny both the Certificate of Need and the Routing Permit for the Sandpiper Project. The Commission has the statutory authority and the responsibility to act on the deficiencies of this proposed project; please use this authority to protect the interests of the people of Minnesota and the communities and environment we cherish. Thank you for giving this issue the serious attention it deserves.

Sincerely,
Janaki Fisher-Merritt

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Paul Schillo <schillop@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 10:40 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments; LarryHartman@state.mn.us
Subject: Docket #13-474 and #13-473 SandPiper Pipeline Project Docket

Attached is my public comment for the SandPiper Pipeline Project Docket #13-474 and #13-473

Paul Joseph Schillo RPH, BCOP
2480 Garthus Road
Wrenshall, MN 55797
218-428-9837

April 3, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Dr. Haar and Honorable Commissioners:

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Paul Schillo and along with my wife of nearly 25 years, Brenda, and my 15 year old son, Caleb, we live on 146 acres in Silverbrook Township approximately 5 miles southeast of Wrenshall Minnesota. This past summer we were notified by Endbridge (North Dakota Pipeline Company) that our property was on a route being considered for the new SandPiper line.

This news was very distressing to myself and my family. I have struggled in writing these comments to convey to everyone what the land I live on means to me. I could write pages to you, and have given long winded explanations to other individuals associated with this pipeline project, but I will keep it brief. I would only ask you to recall all the individuals that left their lands to come to America with the promise of new opportunity, land ownership, and a new found freedom. For 18 years we have poured our heart and souls into our property. The thought that a large company can come in and use eminent domain to potentially force a pipeline across a piece of property that an individual has poured their blood, sweat, and tears, as well as their hard earned income, goes against every moral fiber of what America was founded and built upon. There are currently many energy projects under consideration in Minnesota right now and the protection of personal property rights must be strongly considered. The ability to invoke eminent domain is not something that should be entered into lightly, and only as a last resort. Every opportunity to avoid this option needs to be explored. This is simply a true and reflective cost of doing business.

I live in an area with an expanding and energetic sustainable organic agriculture community. The concept of sustainable agriculture is really coming in to its own. As the world population expands, the ability to feed this growing population in a sustainable and safe way becomes more important. Valuable and healthy farmland is becoming an increasingly important concept. For years we have ignored the importance of preserving and protecting farmland. We now see this valuable farmland significantly contributing to the economy of our area. As a young man spending time on my Uncle's wheat farm in North Dakota, a deep sense of appreciation for the land was instilled in me. As a farmer, my Uncle had a deep appreciation for the land and its ability to feed a growing world. He would remind me that we had not always taken the best care of the land and spoke of the dust bowl years. As of late there have been many news articles on the recent oil boom in North Dakota and while many tout the economic benefit to the North Dakota economy, there are also concerns by farmers about oil spills hurting their land and contaminating the ground water. When placing pipelines in the Wrenshall area, we must take into account this valuable resource of our farmland. I currently have about 60 acres of

prime hay land that supports a local beef producer. The placement of pipelines disrupts the valuable top soil of the hay land and also subjects the land to perpetual digging and maintenance that we see often on other oil pipelines that run thru the area.

Our property is located in the Nemadji watershed district. Clear Creek borders the back of our land. We have planted countless trees as part of the erosion control project to help mitigate clay from entering Clear Creek that runs into the Nemadji River and eventually flows into Lake Superior. When the proposal for the initial route for the SandPiper Line came thru, it would have not only meant destruction of valuable top soil on some of our farmland, but also the destruction of a large number of trees. To spend countless hours and expenditure of personal resources only to see these improvements put at potential risk of being eliminated can be quite stressful for a family. I often think of the phrase "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" . Many times the pursuit of happiness is disrupted. Many times these disruptions are under our control and other times they are not. I can certainly say that this last summer, there was a major disruption in my family's pursuit of happiness and it was not by our choice.

The last number of years, we have seen countless news stories regarding the US housing market and the amount of equity families have lost in their homes and personal wealth due to the depressed housing market. For most US families, their residence is the single biggest investment they will ever make and accounts for a large portion of their personal wealth. This has been such a hot button topic that the US government has gotten involved with bailouts, mortgage assistance and foreclosure prevention. One can find factual and anecdotal evidence, especially on a local basis, of property values being decreased by the presence of oil pipelines. The owner is no longer able to build on that property or plant trees. In the future, I believe we will see legislation regarding a buy the farm type program when pipelines go thru property, because of this detrimental effect to property owners.

We did receive some encouraging news late last fall. Realizing the valuable resources that surrounded the Wrenshall area, the Carlton County Commissioners and Enbridge worked together to search for a revised pipeline route that would more closely follow existing right of ways that exist in the area and would protect many acres of greenfield and the sustainable agriculture land as well as pristine woods . They both realized the significant socio-economic impact that the pipeline would have on these areas.

I would commend our Commissioners for acting in the best interest of landowners and the agricultural community and Enbridge for being willing to propose a more environmentally friendly and socio- economically acceptable route. This REVISED PREFERRED ROUTE more closely follows existing right of ways and would more closely line up with the State's non-proliferation principles. I would like to go on record saying that the REVISED PREFERRED ROUTE is a significant improvement to the original route that was submitted.

The US has had a total lack of an energy policy for the last 30 years. Suddenly there is a glut of oil in the Bakken region and there is a race to pump it out as fast as possible. No plans to capture valuable natural gas that gets flared off from oil patches. No well thought plans to transport it. One could certainly even question the need and urgency for the pipelines to Superior Wisconsin. Simple mathematics shows that these refineries are currently running at capacity and any increase in the amount of crude oil brought into the area will not benefit this region. There are currently many concerns with the safety of oil transportation by both rail and pipelines. Our families share these concerns as well. I do not think there is a clear cut answer as to what form of transportation of crude oil is the safest. Many times the "out of sight out of mind" mentality wins out in our fast food, short sighted American train of thought. When the original line was proposed thru our property, I was very concerned about the quality of our water and the proposed relationship of the pipeline to our house. I would question anyone who would welcome a oil pipeline 50 yards from their front door.

In conclusion, I would thank the Carlton County Commissioners and Enbridge for working together on the Revised Preferred Route thru eastern Carlton County. I would urge the PUC to accept the REVISED PREFERRED ROUTE and DISMISS the originally proposed Preferred Route now referred to as the Carlton County Route Alternative.

America was built on the premise of one person, one vote; and that the voice of the richest person counts only as much as that of the poorest person. It has made us one of the greatest countries in the world. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and submit my comments on this issue.

Thank you,

Paul Joseph Schillo

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Adam Tome <adamtome@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:18 PM
To: Hartman, Larry (COMM); #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Enbridge Pipeline Route, PUC Docket #13-474

April 3, 2014

Adam Tome'
21788 Duck Lake Rd
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Dear Minnesota Public Utilities Commissioners,

Please help me understand why installation of an oil or gas pipeline does not merit a Full Environmental Impact Statement, especially when that proposed pipeline will run under precious farm land and near rivers and lakes.

I grew up in Ely, MN. To this day, whenever the word "mining" is spoken the State of Minnesota conducts a Full Environmental Impact Statement. Mines are located above ground, if anything goes wrong, you can see it. This Enbridge pipeline will be buried a few feet under ground. Enbridge tells us they will fly over the pipeline on a regular basis and monitor it. How will Enbridge see a leak underground, especially from an airplane?

Recently we marked the 25th anniversary of the Valdez Exxon oil spill. 25 years after that tragedy, the recovery is not 100%. Minnesota is known as "The Land of 10,000 Lakes", it's even stamped on our license plates. Itasca State Park is a priceless resource and the surrounding lakes near Park Rapids are some of the cleanest lakes in Minnesota. As a matter of fact, Duck Lake is not infested with AIS. The two rivers that wrap themselves around Duck Lake, the Shell River and Crow Wing River, are wonderful rivers to canoe or tube on. They are lovely, clean rivers. Very family friendly!

If the Sandpiper Pipeline is approved for installation, Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through areas that will not jeopardize the Mississippi Headwaters, any lake, stream, or river. These are irreplaceable resources that need us to protect them.

Nobody sets out to pollute the environment, including Enbridge. I understand our everyday need for oil and gas too. And I understand the need for tax revenue for rural Minnesota towns and counties. All I ask is that before we approve projects such as the Sandpiper pipeline and the Line 3 replacement, we conduct a Full Environmental Impact Statement like the State of Minnesota does when mining is discussed in Northeastern Minnesota.

Respectfully,

Adam Tome'

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Carol Soto <carol111us@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:43 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket numbers:13-473 Certificate of Need and 13-474 Route Permit.

Dear Decisionmaker,

The proposed Endbridge pipelines referred to above need to be thoroughly reviewed with a full on Environmental Impact Statement from the PUC. The preferred southern route indicated will affect the Mississippi Headwaters, trout streams like the Straight River, wild rice beds, wetlands, the Red River of the north, and the already-compromised Straight River aquifer. These are not small concerns.

Please commit to a rigorous environmental review for this project.

Thank you,
Carol Soto

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Becky Wheeler <rjwheeler@kmtel.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:10 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: The Docket number is 13-473 for the Certificate of Need and 13-474 for the Route Permit

Mike And Becky Wheeler
60661 231 Ave
Mantorville, MN 55955

April 3, 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

Re: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

My wife and I are opposed to Enbridge Pipeline's (North Dakota Pipeline Company) LLC's proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

We live in southeastern Minnesota but have a seasonal cabin on Duck Lake in Hubbard/ Wadena county. The reason we chose this area, like thousands of others, is because of the pristine lake water in the area. The proposed Enbridge Sandpiper and Line will run within a quarter mile of Duck Lake. When that pipe line leaks into the sandy soil the lake and water table will be ruined.

Itasca State Park and surrounding area and lakes will be put in peril if these pipe lines are allowed to follow this proposed route. One half a million people visit Itasca park each year.

Why would our state allow big oil to place one of our states largest tourism assets in peril?

Enbridge may promise that they would clean up any leaks or spills but the damage will have already been done. I think we all learned this after Valdez in Alaska and the southern coast disasters.

It seems more logical to follow the existing Enbridge main line system.

For these reasons , if the Sandpiper line is deemed necessary, Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through an area that will not jeopardize the Mississippi Headwaters and the lakes, streams and rivers of Hubbard county and northern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Mike and Becky Wheeler

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Charles Diessner <cfdiessner@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:07 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket Number PL -6668/PPL -13-474

April 3, 2014

Larry Hartman

Environmental Review Manager

Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman:

My wife and I live on Potato Lake in Park Rapids, Minnesota. After attending public meetings and reviewing materials regarding the application by Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership and North Dakota Pipeline Company (collectively, Enbridge) to construct its proposed Sandpiper Pipeline as described in the above referenced Docket No. (the "Project") we have the following comments:

1. We are opposed to the Sandpiper Pipeline as proposed by Enbridge and we request that you deny its application.

Our opposition to the application is because Enbridge has failed to provide answers to a number of critical issues raised by the public, including (i) the exact location of the proposed pipeline; (ii) the number and exact location of the additional safety valves Enbridge said it would provide for additional protection in the sensitive areas of the rivers, lakes and wetlands; (iii) nature, amount and protection of the assets set aside to cover direct and indirect public and private costs of a leak or spill; (iv) providing accurate information about safety statistics; and (v) the additional impacts and critical issues resulting from the new information that Enbridge plans to also use its preferred southern route for the Project for the replacement and relocation of its Line 3 which (a) amounts to a substantial amendment to its application and (b) involves cumulative effects on the natural environment and the economy that are not addressed by Enbridge in its documents which provide that it has no plans for any other use of the pipeline route than the Sandpiper Pipeline. This conduct by Enbridge of not providing adequate, correct and complete information on the Project has frustrated not only the public and local governmental authorities, but also the various agencies involved in reviewing the Project. Enbridge should not benefit from such conduct and its application should be denied.

2. Enbridge's request for its preferred southern route should be denied because there are better alternate routes, including using its Line 3 route not only for the replacement of Line 3, but also for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

Since Enbridge's preferred southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline involves the potential of such significant adverse environmental impacts involving highly sensitive, unique and valuable resources of the state as described in paragraph 3 below, the use of an alternate route, such as the Line 3 route, is critical.

3. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) should be prepared for the Project.

Pipelines, like energy facilities, should be located compatible with environmental preservation and efficient use of resources. Minnesota law requires that "An EIS shall be ordered for projects that have the potential for significant environmental effects".

We cannot imagine a project that has more potential for "significant environmental effects" than this Project. The potential impacts of a leak or spill from this pipeline on the Mississippi and other rivers, lakes which are some of the clearest and cleanest in Minnesota, wetlands and the Straight River aquifer which is shallow and in sandy porous soils, all of which are extremely vulnerable, could be devastating. An EIS is

required for the Project because these highly sensitive, unique and valuable resources of the state deserve the highest level of scrutiny.

Thank you for considering our comments,

Chuck and Joan Diessner

24328 Hazelwood Drive

Park, Rapids, MN 56470

cfdiessner@gmail.com

612-790-6565

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: patricia schoephoerster <paschoep@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 6:25 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Sandpiper Route Permit 13-474

Patricia Schoephoerster
PO BOX353
Howard Lake MN

Honorable Commissioners

I am writing in none support of the oil pipe line purpose by Embrigde Company.

Since the report came out this week about the warming of our planet, I think new technology is more important then pipelines. Even our cars are changing. I don't think our planted can handle to much more and we need to think of what we are leaving for future generations.

If you won't listen to the earth and I hope you do, then build your pipeline over existing lines. The earth still won't like it but at lease you won't be destroying more of it.

PATRICIA SCHOEPHOERSTER

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Becky Palmer <rebeccaapalmer@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 6:23 PM
To: Hartman, Larry (COMM); #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Enbridge Pipeline Route, PUC Docket #13-474

April 3, 2014

Rebecca Palmer
2807 Dean Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Honorable Public Utilities Commissioners:

I am opposed to Enbridge Pipeline LLC's proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

I have visited the Park Rapids region annually since I was born in 1953. Itasca State Park is a priceless resource that my family has enjoyed both summer and winter. My family currently owns a cabin on Duck Lake, a lake that is close to the proposed southern pipeline route. Duck Lake and the surrounding lakes near Park Rapids are some of the cleanest lakes in Minnesota. Furthermore, the proposed route runs through the Straight River watershed, an already compromised aquifer. The pipeline could also jeopardize the Fishhook chain of lakes if an oil spill occurs.

For these reasons, if the Sandpiper Pipeline is deemed necessary, Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through an area that will not jeopardize the Mississippi Headwaters and the lakes, streams and rivers of Hubbard County and northern Minnesota. These are irreplaceable resources that should be vigilantly protected. I strongly urge the Public Utilities Commission to conduct more than an environmental review; I support a Full Environmental Impact Statement. I am very concerned about the proposed pipeline, and am shocked and disheartened by the glib responses that the Enbridge representatives have offered when challenged about environmental concerns at public meetings and in the press.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Palmer

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Gene and Julie Fladeboe <fladeboe1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 2:22 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Enbridge Pipeline Route Docket Number 13-473 and 13-474

Honorable Commissioners,

We are opposed to the Enbridge Pipeline's (North Dakota Pipeline Company) LLC's proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

As we look at the PUC's criteria for making decisions regarding pipeline routes the following criteria that you outline, in our opinion, meets the need for a full Environmental Impact Statement versus a review with Enbridge. The specific criteria that we refer to include the following: Natural environment: the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline southern route affects the Mississippi Headwaters, various trout streams like the Straight River, wetlands, ricing beds, and the Red River of the north. It is our understanding that Enbridge is looking at routing not only the Sandpiper Pipeline but also Line 3 through the Straight River aquifer, which is shallow, not to mention the Mississippi Headwaters. The pipeline will also affect our economy, which includes aspects of our agriculture, forestry and tourism. Imagine when (not if) there is a pipeline leak and the damage it will do some of the clearest and cleanest lakes in Minnesota. Image the damage it could do to the Mississippi River.

For the above stated reasons it seems that the Public Utilities Commission would want to protect our environment and in doing so to explore alternative routes that would not jeopardize the Mississippi Headwaters, lakes, streams and rivers that are in Hubbard County and Northern Minnesota.

Also we would also recommend that the PUC extend the public comment period to August 1, 2014 which would give residents of Hubbard County and northern Minnesota a longer period to respond and share their comments as so many of our residents are out of the state for the winter months and also have the right to share their views on the proposed pipeline.

Sincerely,
Gene and Julie Fladeboe

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Julie Guth <jtguth@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 2:11 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: docket #s 13-473 and 13-474

15479 Ladyslipper Lane
Deerwood, Minnesota 56444
April 3, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of north central Minnesota, I respectfully request that the Department of Commerce deny the permit of Enbridge's proposed Sandpiper Pipeline in Northern Minnesota. These pipelines threaten all Minnesotans, our wildlife, and our land -- and are they are unnecessary. . This land and this water are precious and they are endangered. The Sandpiper Pipeline hopes to bring up to 375,000 barrels of fracked Bakken oil through a separate route in northern Minnesota. Fracked oil from the Bakken poses a serious risk to the North Country -- particularly in light of the recent 800,000 gallon oil spill in a remote area of North Dakota. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the increased pressure on the pipes that would be. The Sandpiper line of fracked oil will also facilitate the creation of a national sacrifice area in western North Dakota created by the proposed flow is quite likely to compromise the pipes, causing ruptures and consequent spills. Additionally, there appears to be no economic need, other than to increase Enbridge's profits, for the proposed line. The refineries to which the oil would flow are already operating at, or near, capacity and are storing the refined oil.

This proposed line travels over an area that contains one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply and it is worth protecting. Our wild rice beds, lakes, and rivers are precious, and our regional fisheries generate \$7.2 billion annually, and support 49,000 jobs. Wild rice, or manoomin, which grows wild on the lakes and rivers of the north would be threatened. Manoomin has sustained the lifeway of traditional harvesters for thousands of years. This is the lifeblood of the Anishinaabeg people (whose treaty area this pipeline crosses) and also a significant part of the economy of the region.

As a member of one of the communities that would be impacted, I oppose this pipeline and I request to your agency deny Enbridge the permit for pipelines across the north. I also support extending the comment to allow more citizens to make their voices.

Thanks you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Julie Guth

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Loretta Cartner <lcartner123@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 11:10 AM
To: Hartman, Larry (COMM)
Cc: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: MPUC Docket #13-474 and #13-473 comments
Attachments: Docket 13-474 comment Matt Wilkin.pdf

April 4, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: In the Matter of North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC,
MPUC Docket #13-474 and #13-473

Dear Dr. Haar:

I am writing to express my opposition to the "Carlton County Route Alternative" as a potential route for the Sandpiper Pipeline hazardous liquids pipeline proposed by North Dakota Pipeline Company (NDPC).

I urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to honor the agreement between NDPC and the Carlton County Commissioners that enabled NDPC to revise the Preferred Route to more closely follow existing utility corridors near Interstate 35. This new Preferred Route, filed with the MPUC in January 2014, avoids 14.7 miles of undisturbed greenfields in eastern Carlton County. It more closely conforms to the state's non-proliferation statutes establishing route selection criteria. Significant portions of the Southern Route do not abide by the non-proliferation statute.

The proposed route would pass through two corners of our property and pass within a few hundred feet of our house, essentially wrapping around our house. The installation of the pipeline would permanently remove a 120 foot wide strip of timber from the back of our property. This right of way would permanently remove 15% of our land from any future use by us. Recently announced future pipeline expansions in the Sandpiper route would further widen the disturbance and permanently disrupt the landscape and our quality of life.

We live adjacent to a growing organic farming district with some of the best soil for growing food in the state of Minnesota. Continual disturbance of these soils by pipeline maintenance and future expansion will make these soils unsuitable for growing food. Use of herbicides to control noxious and undesirable plants that frequent pipeline corridors is not compatible with the organic farming business. In my experience, having worked in my professional career with projects requiring reclamation of soils, disruption of these very thin soils will permanently remove these areas from food production. There is no returning these soils to their current productive condition once a pipeline is installed.

We are the owners of rural property in a nearby state that currently has two hazardous material pipelines passing through it. For years, we made attempts to eradicate the plants, spotted knapweed and trefoil, from the pipeline right-of ways. The trefoil was introduced by Enbridge as part of their "reclamation" seed mix. The weeds are continually dispersed by illegal snowmobile and ATV use on the right-of way to the point that we cannot control their spread

anymore. We have given up trying to stop the spread of these undesirable species due to the high eradication costs and unreasonable burden placed on us by the company to do so at our own expense. Our experience indicates that pipeline right-of-ways are central locations for noxious and invasive weeds, and effective mapping, analysis, and mitigation should be required.

Our property values will be permanently de-valued due the presence of a hazardous liquids pipeline in very close proximity to our house. The growing negative perception of hazardous liquid pipelines in the United States will affect potential buyers of our property. No allowance is made for this devaluation when “compensation” is made for the right-of-way. In fact, there will be no reduction in our property tax so in essence, we will be paying more taxes for land that is not truly ours. Is this not a heavy burden to place on private citizens of the United States so that a private foreign corporation can reap the profits?

The Environmental Information Report (EIR) lacks details and specifics that are necessary to analyze the Alternatives adequately. There is no raw data to substantiate most of the claims made by NDPC. How does the public verify the conclusions made by NDPC when the public has no access to the data? The EIR appears to be a computer generated product and a detailed site specific Minnesota Environmental Impact Statement should be conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act.

The reasons given for rejection of the Northern Route Alternative is not justification for disregarding this existing hazardous liquids pipeline right-of-way from consideration. Following the Northern Route adheres to the non-proliferation policy in the state of Minnesota. The Northern route needs to be established as a preferred route for the Sandpiper project.

In summary, the Carlton County Route Alternative should be rejected as a viable route for this project. The Northern Route should be the analyzed as the preferred route. A more informative, site specific environmental analysis and alternative comparison should be completed. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my comments and concerns relating to the project.

Sincerely,

s/s Matt Wilkin

Matt Wilkin
2560 County Road 1
Wrenshall, MN 55797

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Susan Risse <camprisse@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:29 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket Number 13-474
Attachments: PUC Letter.jpg

Susan K. Risse
1516 79th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

April 4, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket Number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Northern Minnesota cannot afford to lose scarce farmland to pipeline construction.

Organic farms are vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage. Whenever possible, routes should avoid organic farms.

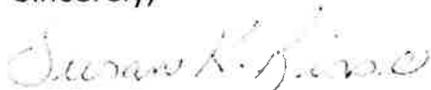
In protecting organic farms we are also protecting the wild, natural and forested areas that provide critical wildlife habitat as well as the waters, such as the Nemadji River, in the Lake Superior Watershed.

This is not only about money. This is about preserving sustainable agriculture and *the health of the ecosystems surrounding Lake Superior.*

Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights.

Please help preserve this vital ecosystem.

Sincerely,



Susan K. Risse

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: William Risse <rissewl@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 10:07 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Letter Regarding Docket 13-474
Attachments: Risse_Docket_13-474_Letter.pdf

Please accept the following letter regarding docket 13-474.

Thank you,

William

William Risse
2812 Silver Lane NE
Saint Anthony MN 55421

04-04-2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Northern Minnesota can't afford to lose scarce farmland and recreational land to pipeline construction.

Organic farms are vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage. Whenever possible, routes should avoid organic farms. I have a personal affinity to the forests and ecosystems of Minnesota, and I have spent much of my time recreating in the area surrounding the Nemadji River and Lake Superior Watershed. Not only is this ecosystem essential to the people working off the land, it is also essential to recreators such as myself who bring resources into the local economy.

Wild, natural, and forested areas not only provide essential ecosystem services to support sustainable farming, they are also valuable natural resources in themselves that provide critical wildlife habitat and protect the health of impaired rivers such as the Nemadji River in the Lake Superior Watershed.

This isn't just about money. This is about preserving sustainable agriculture and the health of the ecosystems surrounding Lake Superior.

Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights.

Minnesota is a state that holds its natural resources close to the heart. This pipeline would put Minnesota's reputation and long standing record of caution surrounding such projects at risk. Better routes and solutions are available.

Sincerely,

William L. Risse

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Abazs Family <abazs@round-river.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:30 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Cc: Jane Fisher-Merritt
Subject: Public Comment - Routing Permit is #13-474, Certificate of Need is #13-473
Attachments: Abazs letter PUC Pipeline.docx

Dear Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Please see attached letter as pasted below...

Sincerely, David Abazs

Round River Farm
Wolf Ridge Organic Farm
MISA Senior Fellow
MOSES Board of Advisors

abazs@round-river.com
(H) 218-353-7736 (W) 218-220-0194

April 3, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Docket Number: Routing Permit #13-474

Certificate of Need: #13-473

Dear Dr. Haar,

I request that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission support the amended route for the Sandpiper pipeline, following the existing pipeline through eastern Carlton County.

I was a Co-Principal Investigator for the University of Minnesota research project *Defining the Agricultural Landscape of the Western Lake Superior Region: Realities and potentials for a healthy local food system for healthy people*. The goal of this research was to describe the agricultural landscape of a fifteen county area in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin, including its capacity to provide food for the regional population. We looked at the land, the food consumption needs and the economics of growing our food locally for our region, and we found that the region needs additional farmers and farmland. Sustainable farming must be supported, and the intrusion of pipelines and other infrastructure on the farmland in our region must be limited. The farmland in this part of the state is, in fact, necessary for our region's future economics and food security.

The Fisher-Merritt farm is on the original pipeline route filed with the PUC. This multi-generation farm is a productive, sustainably farmed, organic operation. Their care for the soil and environment, along with their support and mentorship of so many other farmers, is an inspiration to the entire region.

With the viable option of an alternate, lower impact route, it would be a crime for this model farm to be severely impacted by the construction of a pipeline across its fields. The Fisher-Merritt farm's organic certification would be jeopardized by the construction process. The destruction of the soil, after years of careful attention to fertility and organic matter, would be lost.

I urge you to yield to the people, the land and the future of this region and make sure the PUC pipeline does not:

- lose scarce farmland to pipeline construction,
- damage farms, the environment and landowner rights,
- challenge a farm's organic certification,
- compromise critical wildlife habitat and negatively impact the health of impaired rivers such as the Nemadji River in the Lake Superior Watershed.

This is about preserving sustainable agriculture and the health of the ecosystems surrounding Lake Superior. This is about our food security and our future economic resilience. Not only will the need for local regional food increase, but the potential economic impact of local food could add almost a billion dollars to our local economy. Do not put our economy in jeopardy for others' pipeline needs.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Abazs

Senior Fellow – Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)

College of Food Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, University of MN, Duluth

Round River Farm Manager

5879 Nikolai Road

Finland, MN 55603

abazs@round-river.com

218-220-0194 or 218-353-7736

April 3, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

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Certificate of Need: #13-473

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Thank you for your consideration,

David Abazs

Senior Fellow – Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems
Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)
College of Food Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences, University of MN, Duluth

Round River Farm Manager
5879 Nikolai Road
Finland, MN 55603
abazs@round-river.com
218-220-0194 or 218-353-7736

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Dan Kittilson <drkittil@q.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 10:58 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Cc: Dan Kittilson
Subject: Attention: Mr. Larry Hartman - Docket number 13-474 for the Route Permit.
Attachments: Letter to PUC. 4.3. 2014 (1).doc; Letter to PUC. 4.3. 2014.pdf

April 3, 2014

Larry Hartman

Environmental Review Manager

Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

ST. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Docket Number PL-6668/PPL/PPL-13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman:

Attached is my letter regarding the Sandpiper Pipeline - Docket Number 13-474 for the Route Permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comments on the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline.

Dan Kittilson

22924 County 7

Park Rapids, MN 56470

April 3, 2014

Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
ST. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Docket Number PL-6668/PPL/PPL-13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am opposed to Enbridge Pipeline's (North Dakota Pipeline Company) LLC's proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline that will cross the Mississippi River near Itasca State Park and travel near the lakes, rivers and wetlands of Hubbard County.

The public trust doctrine is the principle that certain resources are preserved for public use and that the government is required to maintain resources for this reasonable use. What happens when oil spills impact the integrity of our lake habitats and "reasonable use" of our lakes is no longer preserved for public use?

The lakes with excellent water quality in Hubbard County's forested watersheds are quite sensitive to change. Small changes in pollutants such as oil can result in a significant decrease in water quality in our clear, clean lakes. Shallower lakes in other areas of Minnesota are not as sensitive to change and water quality will not be impacted as much by such pollutants.

The proposed route for the Sandpiper Pipeline through Minnesota's prime lake country will have dramatic system effects on many watersheds throughout North Central Minnesota and beyond. For example, water quality degradation in the Gulf of Mexico is directly related to land use in the Mississippi River watershed. The Sandpiper Pipeline crosses the Upper Mississippi watershed at two different locations and an oil spill can threaten our water resources many miles away.

The cumulative impacts of the Sandpiper Pipeline and potential future pipeline construction passing through our watersheds, lakes, rivers and wetlands can significantly alter lake habitats and water quality. How do we address these cumulative impacts to our precious water resources?

All these threats to our water resources demonstrate that we need a more reasonable and safer alternative. If the Sandpiper Pipeline is deemed necessary, Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through an area that doesn't have as big an impact on **MINNESOTA'S OIL (our water resources)**.

Sincerely,



Dan Kittilson
22924 County 7
Park Rapids, MN 56470

April 3, 2014

Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
ST. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Docket Number PL-6668/PPL/PPL-13-474

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Sincerely,



Dan Kittilson
22924 County 7
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Steve Steinhoff <sandbtransport@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:43 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Comment for Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474
Attachments: Comment for DocketNo_PL-6668_PPL_13-474.doc

Mr. Hartman and Commissioners

Attached is my comment for the Sandpiper Pipeline Route (ND Pipeline) Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter,

Steve Steinhoff

Steve Steinhoff
16141 Chokecherry Dr., Nevis, MN
Thursday, April 03, 2014

To:

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

RE: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL:-13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

This letter is in regards to the new pipeline from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Superior Wisconsin.

Many of us along the pipeline route are opposed to its chosen path. This path will essentially be going through our back yards. Easements and/or buy outs should not have to be the burden of property owners or tribal bands. How many land treaty laws are being breeched? The transportation of the oil is simple.

The transportation of this oil should remain as it is now by rail or truck. A spill, as tragic as it is, above ground is much more detectable and easier to contain. The rail system, to my understanding, has sanctioned 100,000 plus tanker cars for the transportation of this Bakken oil. By the use of this pipeline will these cars be abandoned? What a waste of resources, natural or otherwise.

Mentioning abandonment, it has been said, by an Enbridge Rep. at a public meeting in Park Rapids earlier this year that the line will be abandoned when the Bakken no longer produces oil. My question is, why put so much effort and money into a project that is so short term and then to be abandoned?

Some of us see through the glitz and glitter of short term revenue. I personally feel the Alberta tar sands will follow soon after and no one will be the wiser. They may, if discovered, come back with the comment "It is already in place, we might as well use it." Not acceptable to me with the track record of pipeline infractions and ruptures.

Another issue is land owners who are summer residents only. Do they not get a voice? They NEED to be informed of the dangers to their land values, drinking water, and recreation if a spill does occur. Not the sugar coating that has been told to the full time residents of short term county tax revenue, employment, food and lodging of workers during the construction phase. Then what? Summer residents should be able to vote yay or nay on the proposal. I propose the comment period be pushed back to at the very least, August, giving these individuals time to comment.

What about those that have absolutely no say in the decision? The wildlife! Everyone loves wildlife, except maybe those who think progress and the destruction of our environment is more important, so they should play a factor in this equation. What about other living creatures

from animals, birds, fish amphibians down to the smallest of micro organisms? We enjoy them for entertainment, food, cleaning the environment of toxins and just knowing that they are around. We are supposed to be the intelligent ones. More often than not I question the morality of the human species. Are we so addicted to the consumption of fossil fuels that we are willing to destroy our world and ourselves to get it?

The question of destruction brings to mind our beloved Itaska State Park. This park is in the path of the Sandpiper pipeline project and is the headwaters of the Mississippi River which runs south all the way to the Deltas of Louisiana which then pours into the Gulf of Mexico. Itaska is a place that people from around the world come just to see and be photographed at the river's beginning. I understand that the pipeline not only goes through this beautiful park, that generates huge tourist revenue, but it also will cross the river not once but twice. Are you, Enbridge or their investors willing to take the risk of destroying and polluting the river system from Minnesota to Louisiana? This is not acceptable as thousands of gallons escape before they are detected. What people fail to recognize is that the tax payer funds the park. The state controls it so we have more power than we know.

I am asking for a full Environmental Impact Study. If a spill were to occur, this would greatly impact tourism which most of this area relies on. What are the guarantees that a leak will never happen? Absolutely none!!! The ground is sand and rock through most of the area. Liquids of ANY kind would percolate down to a shallow water table, making the water unusable. This would affect lakes, ponds, marshes, rivers, trout streams, aquifers and drinking water for all living things. After all, central Minnesota is the home of 5% of the cleanest fresh water in the world! Are you willing to take the risk of polluting this water and contaminating the earth, not only with the construction of the Sandpiper or worse yet a possible leak? We are facing this issue, already with the farming practices in the area. Stop the destruction for money and greed. If I sound angry I am. Our way of life depends on a sound decision. Do what is right. Deny the pipeline!

Thank you,

Steve Steinhoff

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Tom Watson <twatson@iphouse.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:35 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Sandpiper Pipeline Matter PPL-13-474
Attachments: Sandpiper Pipeline WAPOA letter April 2014.docx

Burl Haar-

Please receive our letter addressed to Mr. Larry Hartman, MN Dept of Commerce, re: requests and comments regarding the above matter.

We would like to submit this to the MN Public Utilities Commission re: the above matter.

Regards,
Tom Watson

Thomas N. (Tom) Watson
President
Director, Land Use and Government Relations
Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA)
39195 Swanburg Court
Pine River, MN 56474

218-543-6064 (Northern MN office)
612-751-0124 (cell)

NOTE: my e-mail address has changed



This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.



March 31, 2014

Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) is a 45 year old 501(c)3 non-profit entity representing the 14 lakes comprising the Whitefish Chain of Lakes in northern Crow Wing County. We have a membership of over 1,000 private property owners and about 50 businesses in this area. The eighth (8th) largest lake system in Minnesota, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes is covers 14,400 acres of open water, 119 miles of shoreline and a catchment area of over 28,000 acres. The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline, if approved and constructed, would directly impact the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and the larger catchment area.

The Whitefish Chain of Lakes is the largest open water system in the Pine River Watershed, a very large watershed composed of over 500,000 acres, over 500 miles of rivers and streams and about 440 lakes greater than ten acres in size. In other words, this area of northern Crow Wing County and southern Cass County has a very significant area of lakes, rivers, streams and catchment areas adjacent to them. The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline, if approved and constructed, would directly impact the Pine River Watershed, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, and their larger catchment area.

By a unanimous vote, WAPOA's Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved this letter and our requests of the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Post Office Box 342 Crosslake, MN 56442

The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline is a serious environmental matter for the property and business owners of the Whitefish Chain of Lakes area. WAPOA has the following four requests regarding the application by Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership and North Dakota Pipeline Company (collectively, Enbridge) to construct its proposed Sandpiper Pipeline as described in the above referenced Docket No. (Project):

- 1. Provide for public comment that includes an opportunity for participation by the directly impacted private and business property owners in this area, including the large number of seasonal residents.**

WAPOA's over 1,000 members include a number of private property owners on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and the neighboring lake systems. A significant number of our members are seasonal residents and have not had the opportunity to participate in the public forums conducted this winter. The large Whitefish Chain of Lakes and surrounding lake systems that include large amounts of sensitive shoreland and wetlands identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are directly included in the proposed Enbridge route of the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline across our northern boundary. WAPOA, including our Board of Directors and advisors composed of both permanent and seasonal members, and our members need more opportunity for review and comment on the Enbridge proposal.

WAPOA's seasonal and permanent property owners would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the review and consideration of these matters. Many of our member property owners live along or near the proposed Pipeline Route, the larger catchment area surrounding the proposed route, and the sensitive rivers, lakes and wetlands. A large number are also seasonal residents who have not had the opportunity to participate in the informational and public meetings/hearings because they have been held when those people are not "at the lake." The seasonal residents and the Board of Directors of WAPOA, including seasonal directors, should not be denied the right to obtain all of the information and participate in the limited number of meetings/hearings just because Enbridge selected timing that was advantageous to it.

- 2. Extend to August 1, 2014 the public comment period for the opportunity to consider and propose alternative routes or route segments and the detailed environmental information requested.**

Based on the meeting we attended and our review of the available materials, Enbridge has failed to date to provide answers to a number of critical issues

raised by the public. The public and our members need Enbridge's answers to these critical issues so that they will have all of the available information before they provide their comments on the Project, including alternate routes or route segments, safety measures, and environmental impacts.

As examples of some of these critical issues that Enbridge has not addressed, we believe they include (i) the exact, detailed location of the proposed pipeline; (ii) the number and exact location of the additional valves Enbridge said it would provide for additional protection in the sensitive areas of the rivers, lakes and wetlands; (iii) nature, amount and protection of assets set aside to cover direct and indirect public and private costs of a leak or spill; (iv) providing accurate information about safety statistics; and (v) the additional impacts and critical issues resulting from the new information that Enbridge's may use the route for the Project for the replacement and relocation of its Line 3 which new information (i) amounts to a substantial amendment to its application and (ii) is contrary to Enbridge's documents which provide that it has no plans for any other use of the pipeline route than the Sandpiper Pipeline. This conduct by Enbridge has frustrated not only the public and local governmental authorities regarding having adequate time to provide comments by April 4th, but also the various organizations such as WAPOA, agencies and property owners involved in reviewing the proposed Project.

Safety is a major concern to us at WAPOA. We know that pipeline spills and leaks have occurred, both in Enbridge operations and elsewhere. We clearly would like to have more details about prevention and safety measures required and proposed for our wetlands, rivers, lakes and environmentally sensitive lands and areas from the construction and operation of the proposed Pipeline.

Finally, extending the deadline for public review and comment will enable the large number of the seasonal property owners that live along or near the general Pipeline route and sensitive areas along the proposed route. The seasonal residents should be provided an opportunity to obtain all of the information and participate in the requested additional meetings/hearings.

3. Conduct during June and July, 2014 additional public information meetings and hearings in the area of the proposed Pipeline route.

These additional meetings are needed to address the concerns set for the in requests 1 and 2 above.

4. Require that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for the Project.

Minnesota Statutes 2013, Section 116D.04 includes the following

"Subd. 2a. When prepared. Where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible governmental unit. . . ."

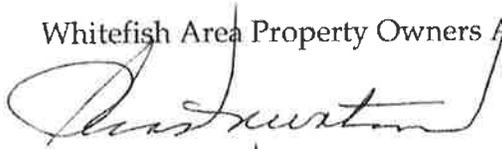
WAPOA cannot imagine a project that has more potential for "significant environmental effects" than this Project. The Pine River Watershed and Whitefish Chain of Lakes waters, rivers, lakes, which are some of the clearest and cleanest in Minnesota, creeks, and wetlands are all extremely vulnerable to adverse impacts from construction, leaks and spills from this Project. Our water resources, including both surface and ground water, are extremely vulnerable to these adverse impacts and threats from construction and spills, and actual incidents could be devastating to these waters. The forests and lands in the area of the proposed Pipeline are also vulnerable to adverse impacts that should be analyzed thoroughly.

An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** should be required by the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) for the Project, both as outlined in Minnesota state law and common sense. The magnitude of the proposed Pipeline Project and the potential impacts on these highly sensitive, unique and valuable water, forestry and land resources of the state deserve the highest level of scrutiny and "analytical" review as provided in state law. The EIS analysis is a tool for the RGU, and voluntarily for Enbridge of course, to prepare and provide for all interested parties, citizens, property owners, and regulatory agencies.

Thank you for considering our requests. If you have any questions or want to discuss our request, please call Tom Watson, WAPOA President at 218-543-6064.

Sincerely,

Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA)



Thomas N. Watson
President

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: jlpiette <jlpiette@cpinternet.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:14 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket number 13-474
Attachments: Letter for MN Public Utilities Commission April 2014.doc

Attached find my letter with concerns of the Sandpiper pipeline proposal. I added the following postscript to the letter.

Thank you for your careful consideration of all the worries and solutions.
Diane Piette

Wow ~ Please, Listen again to the remarkable depth and breath of the voices of the people at the meeting in Carlton County in Carlton.

I was saddened when immediately, the next morning, the corporate response to that meeting testimony; to that intelligence of mind and heart, was: a promise of \$8 Billion. That promise easily swayed the two city mayors and the newspaper editorial staff.

Let it not be the only (\$\$\$) voice heard.

Thank You!

Diane Piette
170 Himango Rd
Esko, MN 55733

3/30/14

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Carlton County organic farms are vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage. Whenever possible, pipeline routes must avoid organic farms.

Wild, natural, and forested areas not only provide essential ecosystem services to support sustainable farming, they are also valuable natural resources in themselves that provide critical wildlife habitat and protect the health of impaired rivers such as the Nemadji River in the Lake Superior Watershed.

I started to write about watershed concerns when I was in 8th grade. That is now nearly 50 years ago. I care deeply about our water and allow that there is no guarantee that the owners of the pipeline and their contractors are as justly devoted to the care of our precious and limited resources as are the MN Public Utilities Commission, the Carlton County Land Stewards, my Senator and Representative and especially, my Food Farmers.

This concern, this hearing cannot be about money. This must be about preserving sustainable agriculture and the health of the ecosystems surrounding Lake Superior and about sustainable agriculture for the health of our families.

Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights.

Northern Minnesota can't afford to lose scarce farmland to pipeline construction.

Respectfully,

Diane Piette

Diane Piette

*Wow ~ Please, Listen again to the remarkable depth and breath of the voices of the people at the meeting in Carlton County in Carlton. I was saddened when immediately, the next morning, the corporate response to that meeting testimony; to that intelligence of mind and heart was: a promise of \$8 Billion. That promise easily swayed the two city mayors and the newspaper editorial staff. Let it not be the only (\$\$\$) voice heard.
Thank You!*

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Kathleen Schillo <bhauser@mchsi.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 7:54 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: docket number 13-474
Attachments: Letter4.3.2014.ps

Honorable Commissioners:

Please see the attached letter regarding docket number 13-474.

Regards,

Kathleen Schillo

Kathleen Schillo
315 Lakeview Avenue
Tonka Bay, MN 55331

April 3, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Please respect the rights of existing land and homeowners and not allow a new crude oil pipeline corridor to cross Carlton County. Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of nonproliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this important matter that has great impact on current home and landowners, the environment and a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Kathleen T. Schillo

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Wagner, Jackie A <JWagner@riverwoodhealthcare.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 5:30 PM
To: staff, cao (PUC)
Subject: PUC Docket Number PL-6668 PPL13-474 Enbridge Sandpiper Project Public Comment Letter
Attachments: PUC Docket Number PL-6668 PPL13-474 Public Comment Letter.doc

**Dear Ms. Smetana: Attached is our comment letter regarding the Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline Proposal.
PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL13-474**

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Tracy Smetana
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

**Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)
PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL13-474**

Dear Ms Smetana,

My husband and I have made our home here in the “suburbs” of Palisade for the past 40 years. My husband has lived in this area all of his life; with the exception of the 4 years he served in the Navy. We have raised our four children here and they now are raising their children close by us. We own 160 acres of which Enbridge has drawn a line right through our entire property for their proposed Sandpiper Oil Pipeline project. We oppose the Sandpiper preferred route through Aitkin County. Pipelines should be kept with other pipelines or perhaps we need to be looking toward the future rather than relying on technologies of the past - making this route irrelevant. There are better routes that Enbridge could select. One is the Soo Line railway bed. Another route they could use is the DC power line that is approximately six miles north of our place. Using this route the land is already cleared and it wouldn't take anything away from property owners like us. Enbridge's northern route, where it follows existing pipelines should be used. Please do not allow them to use the “southern route” through Aitkin County.

Our area is full of farmland, wetlands, lakes and streams. People move here or come to visit here because of the beauty and because they have places to hunt, fish, boat, ski, snowmobile, four-wheel around, etc. Those of us living here depend on the tourists for our income. We give up a lot to live here. Please do not make use lose our property to an oil pipeline that will ruin the richness of this area. I can't imagine what it will be like when an oil spill occurs. And yes a spill will occur and it would destroy our entire community.

Our lakes and streams are some of the cleanest in the state. That is why we want to protect them. We love the wild life that lives here from the whitetail deer to the trumpeter swans to eagles and owls, birds of all kinds, etc. There is a reasonably high probability that there will be a Sandpiper pipeline rupture that will result in catastrophic damage to private property owners in Minnesota. Pipeline ruptures occur and they are not rare.

Enbridge boasted that they have monitors in place that checks line pressure but in many of their spills; it was the property owners that discovered the leaks, as the monitoring they do for pipe pressure cannot see the defects in the pipe used to build the pipeline.

Their history of spills includes:

- 2001 Alberta, Canada gallons spilled = 1,003,800
- 2002 Minnesota gallons spilled = 252,000
- 2003 Wisconsin gallons spilled = 189,000
- 2007 North Dakota gallons spilled = 9,030
- 2007 Wisconsin gallons spilled = 176,000
- 2009 Alberta, Canada gallons spilled = 168,000
- 2010 North Dakota gallons spilled = 126,000
- 2010 Michigan gallons spilled 877,000
- 2011 NWT Canada gallons spilled = 63,000

**Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)
PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL13-474**

And the spills will keep on occurring.

[Sources: U.S. National Safety Transportation Board; Transportation and Safety Board of Canada; U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration; Milwaukee Sentinel Journal; Ontario's Technical Standards and Safety Authority; Enbridge Corporate Social Responsibility Reports; Polaris Institute]

Enbridge representatives working on this project have not been very nice. They know they have eminent domain rights and push that very strongly. Those who came and did the surveying lied as to who they were. Our daughter was told by them that they were Aitkin County surveyors; our daughter called while this team was still present and found out they were not Aitkin County surveyors. When she went to confront them, they had jumped in their truck and sped off. How professional and trustworthy is that.

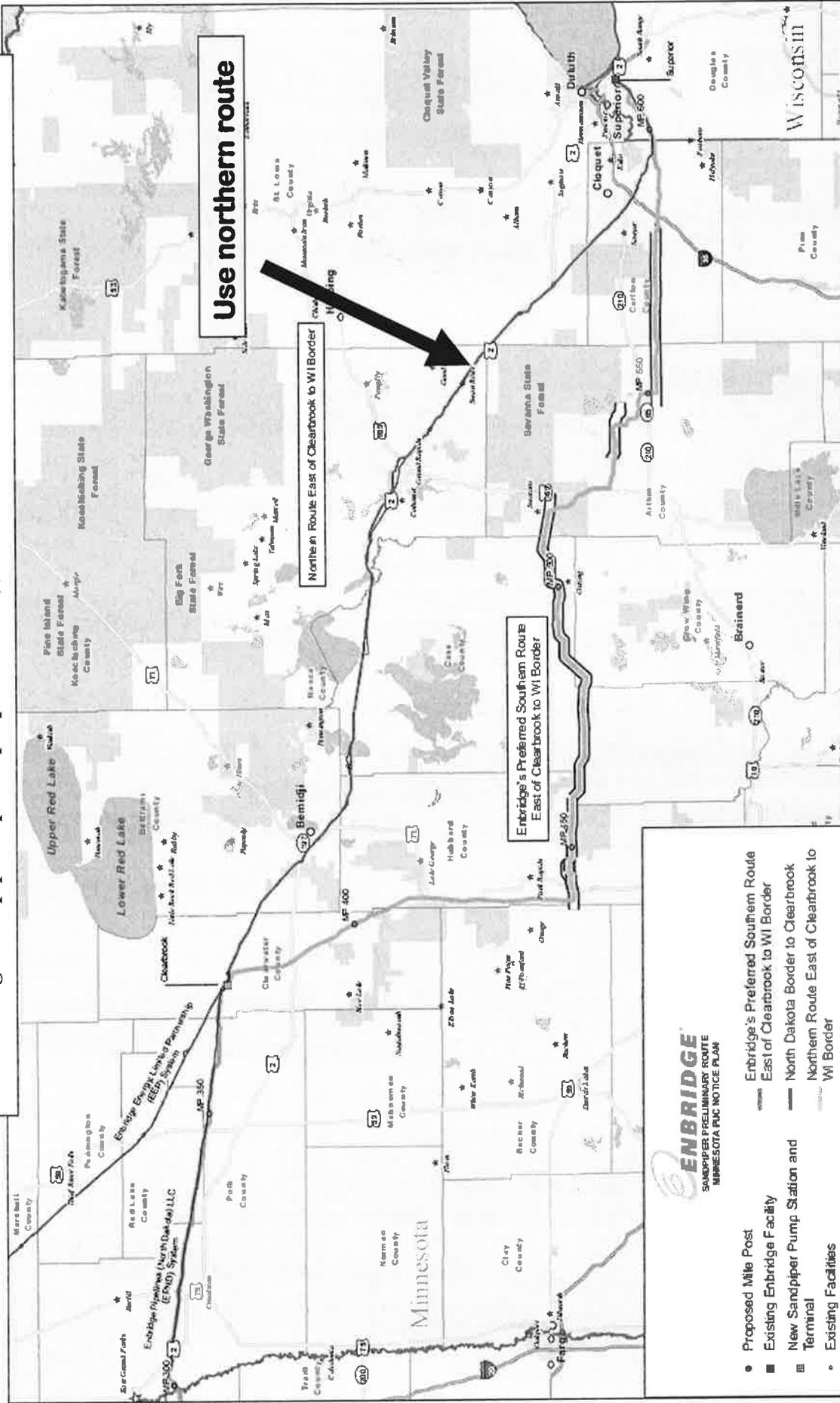
Please here our voices to help us protect our environment and property and to protect the waterways so that an oil spill will not run into the creek near our property that then will run into the Willow River and then into the mighty Mississippi. Don't let Enbridge spoil this beautiful area; make them keep their pipeline with other pipelines already in use. This oil pipeline is for their company to profit from and the crude from this pipeline will be sold and sent out of our country. Don't wreck this pristine area just so a company can make a profit. If it costs them more money to go with their northern route then so be it. Don't spoil our home and community.

Our last concern is that our area has soo many "snowbirds" so go to warmer climate during the winters and they are not being given the time to hear and consider this project. The public comment period should be extended so that they won't come back and find that they no longer own all of their property and didn't even get the opportunity to have their voices heard.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry and Jackie Wagner
36338 540th Street
Palisade, MN 56469

Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s) PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL13-474



Use northern route

Northern Route East of Clearbrook to WI Border

Enbridge's Preferred Southern Route East of Clearbrook to WI Border

ENBRIDGE
 SANDPIPER PRELIMINARY ROUTE
 MINNESOTA PUC NOTICE PLAN

- Proposed Mile Post
- Existing Enbridge Facility
- New Sandpiper Pump Station and Terminal
- Existing Facilities
- Existing BPND Pipelines
- Existing EEP Pipelines
- Enbridge's Preferred Southern Route East of Clearbrook to WI Border
- North Dakota Border to Clearbrook
- Northern Route East of Clearbrook to WI Border
- Existing Electric Transmission Lines

Additional detailed project maps can be found on the project website at www.enbridge.com/SandpiperProject or by calling the Sandpiper Project team at 855-788-7805.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC
 UTILITIES COMMISSION

To the PCU

Commissioners - I want to express my strong opposition to the S. route of the Sandpiper pipeline. There is no need for it!!! another corridor already exists. We also oppose it for environmental reasons, too numerous to mention. Myself, I oppose it because it is posing a financial loss to me - Who in the hell wants to buy a ^(120ac) farm with a pipeline through it???

Thank you

Chester Cooke
 Elna May Cooke
 "family & friends"

Chester Cooke
 Elna May Cooke
 Erin Cooke
 Seth Cooke et al.
 2661 City Rd 104
 Barnum, Mn,
 55707

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Patrick Reiter <patrickdreiter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:22 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket PPL-13-474 Public Comment

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to express my concern regarding an emerging threat to Minnesota's economy, people and culture; Enbridge Energy's Sandpiper Pipeline. Our state's scenic beauty and recreational opportunities drive our economy and offer an experience that should be enjoyed by all, in perpetuity – protecting these assets, in my opinion, is paramount.

Enbridge Energy is asking for access to additional lands across Minnesota to build an oil pipeline across pristine areas of our state (600+ miles). Enbridge's proposed *Southern Route* would expose additional lakes, forests, wetlands, and aquifers to hazardous materials; including the Mississippi river and many renowned lakes; Cross, Roosevelt and Washburn are just a few. If approved this new territory vastly increases the amount of Minnesota land put at risk to fracking chemicals and oil. While I abstain from taking a position on the greater question of allowing any additional pipeline; I believe that, if approved, any new pipeline should be placed on land already dedicated to the purpose of shipping oil; in this instance the Enbridge Northern Route is the obvious choice. In addition to mitigating the damage from spills, the Northern Route provides a more efficient means of review, maintenance, and oversight for Enbridge, state officials and communities.

In researching this topic a few immutable facts emerged that shaped my point of view:

- The oil and fracking chemicals to be shipped via the Sandpiper Pipeline are toxic and hazardous
- Enbridge and oil pipelines in general have a history of leaks and accidents; spills are a certainty
- Enbridge is responsible for the largest pipeline spill in U.S. history; this Michigan spill impacted Lake Michigan and the Kalamazoo River dumping ~1 million barrels – three years later it's still being cleaned – a once pristine watershed is now destroyed, property rendered worthless
- The proposed *Southern Route* exposes more of Minnesota to fracking chemicals and tar sands oil
- An alternative to the *Southern Route* has been proposed by Enbridge that leverages areas already exposed to the hazards of a fracking oil pipeline; this if referred to as the *Northern Route*

Please oppose exposing additional tracts of Minnesota's environment, an engine of economic growth, vitality, and essential element of Minnesota culture, to the hazards of chemical waste and tar sands oil.

“A Society Grows Great When Old Men Plant Trees Whose Shade They Know They Shall Never Sit In” - Plato

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Deane Johnson <deanej@unitelc.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:13 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: RE: Sandpiper pipeline PPL-13-474

From: Deane Johnson <deanej@unitelc.com>
Date: April 4, 2014 2:06:37 PM CDT
To: larry.hartman@state.mn.us;
Subject: PPL-13-474

To: Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager

From:
Deane Johnson
PO Box 649
Park Rapids, MN 56470

Re: Proposed southern route for Sandpiper pipeline, docket PPL-13-474

I object to the proposed southern option for the Sandpiper pipeline because of the following concerns:

The project will cause additional disruption in the short term to sensitive watersheds in the upper Mississippi, Shell, and Crow Wing drainages, including wetlands and streams that will be impacted immediately. Some of the wetlands to be affected harbor endangered plants and other valuable natural resources. Of course, the long-term risk of a spill would cause additional unknown harm, but short-term impacts alone are great enough to warrant abandonment of this route.

The project will damage tourism to the Park Rapids region through widening and additional permanent deforestation along the existing pipeline and powerline routes. The line comes very close to Itasca State Park, which receives over 1/2 million visitors a year, and also passes a short distance from La Salle Lake State Recreation Area and Scientific & Natural Area, which are in their early stages of development. The extensive digging associated with the project, though temporary, will cause unsightly disfiguration of the landscape in close proximity to this region's most treasured natural and cultural resources, and has the potential to seriously impact tourism, a 29 million dollar per year business for this area.

Have soil conductivity studies been done to ensure that the pipeline will not be eroded by induced currents created by the power line in that right-of-way? If not, a full EIS should be done, and the time taken to evaluate this potential problem.

If the pipeline is needed, it should be routed through an area that will not put at risk these resources in Hubbard County. Thank you for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,
Deane Johnson

4/2/14 13-474

I am a certified organic vegetable farmer living very close to the proposed Sandpiper crude oil pipeline. My wife and I have been running Northern Harvest Farm since 2005. During this time we have had several enthusiastic interns with plans to start farms of their own. One of them, Adam Kemp, along with his wife Jackie, recently purchased the forty acres across the street from us. We plan on farming co-operatively indefinitely. The reason they have decided to move to this location is because of the land and supportive and budding organic farming community. This is also the reason we purchased land here. Good land is not easy to come by, and to destroy such a precious resource in the name of short term gains such as this pipeline, would be extraordinarily short sighted. I implore you to uphold the principle of non-proliferation, which in this case means nothing less than the Sandpiper crude oil pipeline being placed with existing oil pipelines.

The growing local and organic farming community is a great thing for our community as a whole. It is good for the land and for the local economy. Preserving our precious and scarce farmland should be at the top of our priority list, as people who want to see our community grow and develop now and for future generations.

Sincerely,



Rick Dalen



Northern Harvest Farm

2572 County Road 102

Wrenshall, MN 55797

218-384-9779

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Randel Hanson <rhanson2@d.umn.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 1:23 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Routing Permit #13-474, Certificate of Need #13-473

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147**

My name is Dr. Randel Hanson, and I am a professor in the Program in Environment and Sustainability at the University of Minnesota Duluth where I perform research and teach about sustainable agro-food systems and related issues. I am part of a larger network of university level researchers in Minnesota and elsewhere exploring how to create sustainable human systems that affect more positive outcomes for human health, our landscapes, and our economic aspirations.

I also founded and direct the Sustainable Agriculture Project (SAP) at UMD's Field and Research Studies Center. SAP formed in 2009 to institute education, research, and community engagement around agro-food systems and sustainable land management in the western Lake Superior region. SAP is a working, ten acre organic farm that allows faculty, students, and community people to understand via an experiential manner how to create human systems that enhance natural systems while providing for humans need. SAP builds on an emerging set of research world-wide that recognizes the important ecological value of organic and sustainable farming systems (in contrast to conventional, fossil-fueled agro-food systems). These organic and sustainable farming systems are not simply research projects; they are also the fastest growing sector economically in our larger food system.

I am writing this letter to urge the MN Public Utilities Commission to recognize the value of organic soil and mandate that Enbridge pipelines utilize existing pipeline pathways and avoid organic farmlands to preserve them for the farmers who cultivate them and our community that benefits from them.

At the heart of organic certification is the reliance on the ecosystem services of healthy soil built over years of careful management which in turn provides high quality, nutritious food free of harmful chemicals. Organically certified soil is the result of a third party evaluation process that recognizes a host of standards for food production, seeds, processing and retailing. Central to the process is the cultivation of micro and macro biological activities that activate ecological services which can be channeled for fertility, insect and weed control, and biodiversity enhancement. This biologically based approach contrasts with the chemical approach characteristic of conventional, fossil-fuel based approaches, which have been widely recognized to be unsustainable due to the progressive deterioration of soil systems, their reliance on fossil fuels, and related secondary impacts this process has on biodiversity and human health.

If organic land management is not followed after it has been granted, organic certification can be removed in an annual review process. Thus, organic certification provides a standard by which the consumer feels the security of high quality, healthy produced food cultivated in sustainable ways. It is no wonder that our own region has experienced a surge in organic farming that is also fueling the economic growth of this sector. In the event of spills or other problems, the livelihood of these organic farmers, gained over many years of careful management of their soil and lands according to federal standards, could be erased overnight. Such a spill-event on these organically certified farmsteads would be an ecological, economic, and social catastrophe that would reverberate far beyond the lands in question.

In the western Lake Superior region, organic farming is clustered in the Carlton County area because of the high quality of the soil in this area. Many of the organic farmers in Carlton County have been managing their lands organically for many years. Taken together, they feed hundreds of people directly through community supported agriculture and many, many more through various retail and institutional outlets. They provide a public service with their activities that extends far beyond their farmsteads and their county. Thus, they contribute to our broader economy in ways that multiply beyond their individual farms.

And finally, I want to note that these organic farmers are educational and research leaders that are far ahead of our mainstream university systems in charting a more sustainable and healthy agro-food system. Organic farmers in the Carlton County area have formally mentored many of our new organic farmers, creating community-based educational system based in experiential learning that is in turn creating very significant economic value for our region. We are learning much from their example, and we are exposing more and more young people to the benefits –socially, economically, and ecologically- of their important work.

And so, **I urge the MN Public Utilities Commission to recognize the value of organic farmland and protect it** from the contamination that could occur if a petroleum pipeline was built atop it. The MN PUC has ample precedence in making such a decision, based on university research and legal processes. There is ample opportunity to use existing routes for the proposed pipelines without breaking new ground.

These farmers, our community and region, and our young people in search of more sustainable pathways forward need these organic systems kept intact for the many benefits that they bring.

I trust that our public institutions will find the protection of these organically certified lands firmly in the public good and take steps to protect them. Thank you for the opportunity to participate and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions with which I may help.

Prof. Randel Hanson

Program in Environment and Sustainability

University of Minnesota, Duluth

329 Cina Hall, 1123 University Drive

Duluth, MN 55812

Rhanson2@d.umn.edu

218-349-2956/cell

Institute on the Environment Resident Fellow

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

http://environment.umn.edu/about/ione_bios/randel_hanson.html

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Mike Scholtz <MScholtz@htkmarketing.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 1:12 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket # 13-474

Honorable Commissioners,

As a resident of Carlton County, MN, I wanted to take a moment to share my feelings about the pipelines being planned for my part of the state.

My top concern is that these pipelines have as little impact as possible on existing farmland. Carlton County is extremely fortunate to be on the forefront of a revolution in community-supported agriculture that is seeing more of our food being grown locally and organically. We're lucky to have many such farms in Carlton County. And the number is growing. But it won't if these pipelines spread laterally across our map.

I'm also concerned about the impact of future pipelines on our forests and wetlands. I chose to move to this state (and to this part of the state, in particular) nearly 15 years ago because I wanted to live closer to these natural areas. Keeping them safe is very important to me.

Of course, I realize we need to make some accommodations to the economy that these pipelines help to support. That's why I think we should always put any new pipelines in the ground next to pre-existing pipelines. And, in a perfect world, I would urge all Minnesotans to look towards the future at developing technologies for energy independence that don't rely on pipelines at all.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,
Mike Scholtz
2291 Hwy 23
Wrenshall, MN 55797

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Beth Bartlett <bbartlet@d.umn.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 1:05 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline

To the Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Enbridge Sandpiper pipeline. I am commenting both on the Certificate of Need, #13-473, and the Routing Permit, #13-474.

With regard to the Certificate of Need, I do not believe that Enbridge Energy has not sufficiently demonstrated that this proposed pipeline is in the public interest. Refineries in Minnesota and surrounding states are at capacity with domestic supplies of crude oil. Therefore, this project is not in the public interest of the people of Minnesota and the Certificate of Need should be denied. In addition, demand for crude oil in Minnesota is declining, and we should not sacrifice our watershed, wetlands, forests, and farmlands for additional crude oil transportation capacity that is not needed to supply our energy needs. We should be investing our resources into renewable energy resources.

I also believe the routing permit should be denied. Northern Minnesota cannot afford to lose scarce farmland to pipeline construction. Even without a leak, the pipeline construction in a new route would irreparably damage the capacity of the affected soils to produce. As someone committed to lessening the food impact on climate change by eating local, organic food whenever possible, I rely on the local, organic food grown in Carlton County for many of my food needs. These organic farms are vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage by putting in a new pipeline route. The wild, natural and forested areas also provide essential ecosystem support to sustainable farming and are valuable natural resources in themselves by providing critical wildlife habitat and protection for the rivers of the Lake Superior watershed.

We also need to honor our treaty obligations. I write this as a descendant of Anglo-European immigrants to this land. As a Euro-American citizen, I argue that to expand this pipeline is to dishonor our treaty obligations to the indigenous populations in this region. The proposed pipeline would cross many waterways and wild rice lakes. In that this pipeline expansion puts the quality of the water at risk, and thereby the quality of everything that lives in and on the water, it would violate indigenous treaty rights to fishing, hunting, and gathering on ceded territory.

I do not support the building of this pipeline, but if it is determined that the pipeline be built, co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damages to farms, the environment, and landowner rights.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Bartlett, Ph.D.
2215 Heather Ave.
Duluth, MN 55803

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: anteater aardvark <aardvark6@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:46 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket #13-473 routing permit Enbridge

Honorable Commissioners:

Re: routing of Enbridge Sandpiper

I have worked for years part-time on a small organic farm north of Duluth, and my family gets food shares from the Food Farm in Wrenshall, like dozens of other families. I know first-hand the long and delicate process of building and maintaining fertile and productive soil. I also attended one of Enbridge's first informational meetings, so I understand the construction process and a little of Enbridge's compensation and mitigation for construction damage. I also read the newspapers about pipeline expansion and about spills.

The construction process requires an expanded corridor, with heavy equipment. I think that for farmland, the compacting of the soil on this wider right of way is more damaging than standard mitigation allows for. There could be contamination from the heavy machinery, too. Then, the pipeline requires a permanent right of way, so that is out of production forever. Finally, the right of way is a corridor for expansion (as Enbridge has already suggested for the Sandpiper route) so that there will be further widening of the construction corridor with its damage and further permanent loss of productive land. The Wrenshall area has unusually nice soil for farming and an expanding organic farm component: these businesses can't just move. It's not like finding a new house.

Enbridge touts its safety record, which may be great compared to other companies, but one mistake can wipe out an intensely-cultivated organic farm. I don't see how a small farm of this type could survive a spill like the recent non-Enbridge pipeline leak in North Dakota.

I think routing the Sandpiper line through Carlton county must take extra care to save the farms which have tended their businesses so carefully and which depend so directly on the quality of their land, including woodland, and water. Ideally the routing would consider the fate of all the arable land there, since organic farming is expanding, and there just isn't that much good land.

Sincerely yours,
Adeline Nunez
4208 McCulloch St
Duluth MN 55804
April 4, 2014

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Anne Dugan <annesdugan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:08 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment Docket 13-474 & 13-473
Attachments: Anne Dugan PUC letter.docx

Anne Dugan
2612 County Road 1
Wrenshall, MN 55797

March 31, 2014

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Enbridge Pipeline Route & Certificate of Need, Docket Number 13-474 & 13-473

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

My name is Anne Dugan and I live 2 miles south of Wrenshall, Minnesota. The original proposed Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline just barely skirted my family's organic vegetable farm. With another line added to this new corridor, such as the new replacement to line 3, our farm would be directly impacted.

I have a BA in Art History from Carleton College and a Master's degree in Art History and Curatorial Studies from Columbia University in New York City. I am currently the Executive and Artistic Director at the Duluth Art Institute where I previously served as curator for 3 years. I run a very popular film festival in Wrenshall, The Free Range Film Festival, now in its 11th year. We get 500 people to come to our festival every July. Most of our audience is from out of the area – we have visitors from the Twin Cities, Chicago, New York City, and a smattering of international visitors. From 2007 to 2010 I served on the Cloquet Tourism board and I attended two tourism conferences in the Twin Cities put on by Explore Minnesota. From 2006 to 2010 I served as executive director of the Carlton County Historical Society. In all of these roles I have interacted with the tourism field and I feel there is amazing potential for sustainable land use in Carlton County that would provide real economic potential but is ultimately incompatible with a new pipeline corridor. I would hope the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission would take a forward thinking approach when considering land use possibilities for our area.

On Tuesday, March 11, the New York Times printed an article about the growing trend in residential development where working farms become a central feature in community development. The article quotes Ed McMahon, a senior fellow for sustainable development at the Urban Land Institute, a nonprofit real estate research group in Washington, DC who states "I hear from developers all the time about this, they've figured out that unlike a golf course, which costs millions to build and millions to maintain, they can provide green space that actually earns a profit." It also quotes Quint Redmond, a chief executive at a development firm: "The interest is so great; we're kind of terrified trying to catch up with all the calls". The community of Serenbe in Chattahooche Hills Georgia supports 152 homes and 3 restaurants – drawing tourists from surrounding states. This development began in 2008 just as the real estate market collapsed. They have emerged intact, with property values appreciating and for-sale signs rare.

Given the growth of sustainable farms in our region, there is real potential for this kind of development that supports the people in the community rather than a foreign owned company with transient workers. You've seen many letters with expert testimony from farmers and that testimony all points to the fact that pipeline corridors are incompatible with sustainable farming operations and green building development.

Explore Minnesota has also invested heavily in the potential for ecotourism. The organization sponsors a green getaway called "Green Routes", a Minnesota directory that identifies eateries that serve locally grown food, and sites that focus on local heritage or that preserve the area's natural environment. Given the proximity of Jay Cook State Park, an explosion of organic farms, and cultural attractions such as the Free Range Film Festival and the Historic Scott House, Carlton County is a perfect candidate for this kind of

tourism and the economic benefits that come with it. The two major features that feed this type of tourism are untouched natural beauty and rich agricultural landscape – these two features should not become irrevocably marred by a new pipeline corridor.

The population center of Duluth also supports this potential for ecotourism and sustainable development. Duluth Mayor Don Ness in his state of the city address on March 4th talked about the economic potential for western neighborhoods along the St Louis River – communities just minutes from those in our County who could benefit from ecotourism land use. Ness wants to invest between \$15 million and \$18 million to help transform the far western part of the city from an industrial zone to a major tourist destination. That money would fund more canoe and boat access to the St Louis River, expand biking and hiking trails, and improve parks and tourist attractions like Spirit Mountain and the Lake Superior Zoo. Carlton County could easily piggyback on this potential boon but the preservation of rich biodiversity and sustainable agriculture systems is vital for this to be successful.

In recent months there has been interest from different sources in setting up an artist in residence program near our farm in Wrenshall. The NEA is incredibly eager to fund this kind of program and similar situations in Wisconsin and across the country are thriving. The disruption and limiting potential of a new pipeline corridor through farms and untouched natural environments could make these types of endeavors much more challenging.

Farmers who engage in direct to consumer marketing (as do most of the new farms in our community) are highly civically engaged and therefore have a lot of potential for revitalizing small communities and integrating them with larger population centers. This exchange of creativity creates a mutually beneficial cycle that strengthens both the rural landscape and their connected larger communities.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is required to take into account current and potential land uses that could be impacted by the pipeline in the determination of its route. NDPC's application makes no reference to the impacts I have described on our community, as they are required to do, despite information provided to them during the route selection process. I am not familiar with all of the communities along the route, but from the limited and generalized information provided in its application I can only assume that the special nature and specific socioeconomic impacts on other communities and environments has been similarly disregarded.

I grew up as a city girl in Ann Arbor, Michigan and loved my experience studying art history in New York City. I was worried about moving to an organic farm in what I thought was the middle of nowhere. I was worried about the loss of community. What I found instead was a strongly connected and powerful social fabric where people are held together not by proximity but by a love and respect for land that has cultural, social, and economic value. Our community in Wrenshall is based on sustainable agriculture and sustainable land use. Our neighbor leads nature hikes through our community's rich biota, friends and customers drive out from Duluth to enjoy our farm and natural surroundings, the event center down the road uses our food to serve to guests. Please do not undermine the potential for growth of sustainable farms that can be a draw for ecotourism or sustainable developments by establishing a new oil pipeline corridor. Please don't be shortsighted in giving away what could be true potential for our community – land use that builds community, land use that sustains community, and land use that supports community.

While the current preferred route is a substantial improvement to the Carlton County Alternative, if a line is to be built I would urge the PUC to consider the northern route along Enbridge's existing mainline corridor as it has the least impact to land owners, their community, and the environment. However, NDPC has not shown that this new pipeline is in the public interest of the people of Minnesota and the alarming lack of detail in nearly all aspects of the application, particularly socioeconomic and land use impacts, should lead the PUC to deny the certificate of need for this project. Thank you for considering this matter with the seriousness it deserves.

Sincerely,

Anne Dugan

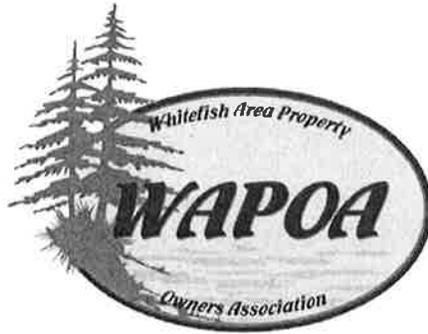
Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: R F Strohmeier <fstroh1@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 2:07 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: FW: Docket #'s 13-473/13-474
Attachments: Sandpiper Pipeline WAPOA letter April 2014[1].docx

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Fifty Lakes Property Owners Association and its 200 members, we would like to concur with the stance taken in the attached letter which you received from WAPOA (Whitefish Area Property Owners Association) regarding the Sandpiper Pipeline Project.

Sincerely, Fred Strohmeier FLPOA President



March 31, 2014

Larry Hartman
Environmental Review Manager
Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Mr. Hartman:

The Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA) is a 45 year old 501(c)3 non-profit entity representing the 14 lakes comprising the Whitefish Chain of Lakes in northern Crow Wing County. We have a membership of over 1,000 private property owners and about 50 businesses in this area. The eighth (8th) largest lake system in Minnesota, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes is covers 14,400 acres of open water, 119 miles of shoreline and a catchment area of over 28,000 acres. The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline, if approved and constructed, would directly impact the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and the larger catchment area.

The Whitefish Chain of Lakes is the largest open water system in the Pine River Watershed, a very large watershed composed of over 500,000 acres, over 500 miles of rivers and streams and about 440 lakes greater than ten acres in size. In other words, this area of northern Crow Wing County and southern Cass County has a very significant area of lakes, rivers, streams and catchment areas adjacent to them. The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline, if approved and constructed, would directly impact the Pine River Watershed, the Whitefish Chain of Lakes, and their larger catchment area.

By a unanimous vote, WAPOA's Executive Committee of the Board of Directors approved this letter and our requests of the Minnesota Department of Commerce and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Post Office Box 342 Crosslake, MN 56442

The proposed Sandpiper Pipeline is a serious environmental matter for the property and business owners of the Whitefish Chain of Lakes area. WAPOA has the following four requests regarding the application by Enbridge Energy Limited Partnership and North Dakota Pipeline Company (collectively, Enbridge) to construct its proposed Sandpiper Pipeline as described in the above referenced Docket No. (Project):

1. **Provide for public comment that includes an opportunity for participation by the directly impacted private and business property owners in this area, including the large number of seasonal residents.**

WAPOA's over 1,000 members include a number of private property owners on the Whitefish Chain of Lakes and the neighboring lake systems. A significant number of our members are seasonal residents and have not had the opportunity to participate in the public forums conducted this winter. The large Whitefish Chain of Lakes and surrounding lake systems that include large amounts of sensitive shoreland and wetlands identified by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are directly included in the proposed Enbridge route of the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline across our northern boundary. WAPOA, including our Board of Directors and advisors composed of both permanent and seasonal members, and our members need more opportunity for review and comment on the Enbridge proposal.

WAPOA's seasonal and permanent property owners would appreciate the opportunity to participate in the review and consideration of these matters. Many of our member property owners live along or near the proposed Pipeline Route, the larger catchment area surrounding the proposed route, and the sensitive rivers, lakes and wetlands. A large number are also seasonal residents who have not had the opportunity to participate in the informational and public meetings/hearings because they have been held when those people are not "at the lake." The seasonal residents and the Board of Directors of WAPOA, including seasonal directors, should not be denied the right to obtain all of the information and participate in the limited number of meetings/hearings just because Enbridge selected timing that was advantageous to it.

2. **Extend to August 1, 2014 the public comment period for the opportunity to consider and propose alternative routes or route segments and the detailed environmental information requested.**

Based on the meeting we attended and our review of the available materials, Enbridge has failed to date to provide answers to a number of critical issues

raised by the public. The public and our members need Enbridge's answers to these critical issues so that they will have all of the available information before they provide their comments on the Project, including alternate routes or route segments, safety measures, and environmental impacts.

As examples of some of these critical issues that Enbridge has not addressed, we believe they include (i) the exact, detailed location of the proposed pipeline; (ii) the number and exact location of the additional valves Enbridge said it would provide for additional protection in the sensitive areas of the rivers, lakes and wetlands; (iii) nature, amount and protection of assets set aside to cover direct and indirect public and private costs of a leak or spill; (iv) providing accurate information about safety statistics; and (v) the additional impacts and critical issues resulting from the new information that Enbridge's may use the route for the Project for the replacement and relocation of its Line 3 which new information (i) amounts to a substantial amendment to its application and (ii) is contrary to Enbridge's documents which provide that it has no plans for any other use of the pipeline route than the Sandpiper Pipeline. This conduct by Enbridge has frustrated not only the public and local governmental authorities regarding having adequate time to provide comments by April 4th, but also the various organizations such as WAPOA, agencies and property owners involved in reviewing the proposed Project.

Safety is a major concern to us at WAPOA. We know that pipeline spills and leaks have occurred, both in Enbridge operations and elsewhere. We clearly would like to have more details about prevention and safety measures required and proposed for our wetlands, rivers, lakes and environmentally sensitive lands and areas from the construction and operation of the proposed Pipeline.

Finally, extending the deadline for public review and comment will enable the large number of the seasonal property owners that live along or near the general Pipeline route and sensitive areas along the proposed route. The seasonal residents should be provided an opportunity to obtain all of the information and participate in the requested additional meetings/hearings.

3. Conduct during June and July, 2014 additional public information meetings and hearings in the area of the proposed Pipeline route.

These additional meetings are needed to address the concerns set for the in requests 1 and 2 above.

4. Require that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) be prepared for the Project.

Minnesota Statutes 2013, Section 116D.04 includes the following

"Subd. 2a. When prepared. Where there is potential for significant environmental effects resulting from any major governmental action, the action shall be preceded by a detailed environmental impact statement prepared by the responsible governmental unit. . . ."

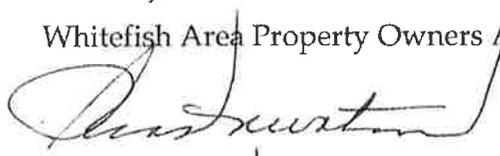
WAPOA cannot imagine a project that has more potential for "significant environmental effects" than this Project. The Pine River Watershed and Whitefish Chain of Lakes waters, rivers, lakes, which are some of the clearest and cleanest in Minnesota, creeks, and wetlands are all extremely vulnerable to adverse impacts from construction, leaks and spills from this Project. Our water resources, including both surface and ground water, are extremely vulnerable to these adverse impacts and threats from construction and spills, and actual incidents could be devastating to these waters. The forests and lands in the area of the proposed Pipeline are also vulnerable to adverse impacts that should be analyzed thoroughly.

An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** should be required by the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) for the Project, both as outlined in Minnesota state law and common sense. The magnitude of the proposed Pipeline Project and the potential impacts on these highly sensitive, unique and valuable water, forestry and land resources of the state deserve the highest level of scrutiny and "analytical" review as provided in state law. The EIS analysis is a tool for the RGU, and voluntarily for Enbridge of course, to prepare and provide for all interested parties, citizens, property owners, and regulatory agencies.

Thank you for considering our requests. If you have any questions or want to discuss our request, please call Tom Watson, WAPOA President at 218-543-6064.

Sincerely,

Whitefish Area Property Owners Association (WAPOA)



Thomas N. Watson
President

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Susan Risse <camprisse@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 12:57 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket Number 13-474
Attachments: PUC Letter Mike.jpg

Michael L. Risse
1516 79th Avenue North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

April 4, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket Number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Northern Minnesota cannot afford to lose scarce farmland to pipeline construction.

Organic farms are vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage. Whenever possible, routes should avoid organic farms.

In protecting organic farms we are also protecting the wild, natural and forested areas that provide critical wildlife habitat as well as the waters, such as the Nemadji River, in the Lake Superior Watershed.

This is not only about money. This is about preserving sustainable agriculture and *the health of the ecosystems surrounding Lake Superior.*

Personally I think we should be doing our utmost to move our economy away from fossil fuel use as quickly as possible. Oil should be taxed to the extent that its price reflects its true cost, when damage to the environment is taken into account. Given that isn't going to happen any time soon, and oil use will continue to rise for the foreseeable future, co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights.

Please help preserve this vital ecosystem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael L. Risse", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael L. Risse

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Richard Gengler <richard.gengler@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 1:31 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Re: Docket number 13-474
Attachments: R Gengler comment Docket number 13-474.doc

Richard Gengler
215 10th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55415

04 Apr 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opinion on the sandpiper pipeline. Minnesota and the world as a whole can't afford to lose any more land to oil pipeline construction. If the pipeline must be built, it is very important to route it follow existing right of ways and not through new right of ways where millions more trees must be cut down and thousands of acres of farmland ruined. Organic farms are especially vulnerable to loss of certification, soil destruction and ecosystem damage. Oil pipeline routes should avoid organic farms.

Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment.

Sincerely,

Richard Gengler