



STOP LINE 3

FACT SHEET

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LINE 3 FAQ

Q. What is Line 3?

Line 3 is a pipeline project by the Enbridge corporation shipping crude oil from the tar sands region of Alberta, Canada to Superior, Wisconsin. It spans northern Minnesota, crossing the Leech Lake and Fond du Lac Reservations and the 1855, 1854 and 1842 treaty areas.

Despite the rise of electric vehicles and the decline of the oil industry in general--and the tar sands industry in particular--Enbridge wants to abandon the old Line 3 as it exists and build a new larger pipeline, much of it in a new corridor, passing through tribal territory, fresh water sources and ecosystems, and public lands.

If built, the new Line 3 would ship up to 915,000 barrels of tar sands crude oil a day, one of the dirtiest fuels on Earth. Total project costs have risen to \$9.3 billion, with the Minnesota segment of the project costing \$4 billion.

This new pipeline is based on the hope of oil and fuel prices rising thereby justifying increased exploitation of the tar sands. But the tar sands industry has peaked and we are turning toward cleaner renewable energy, making new Line 3 an unneeded, destructive and wasteful investment.

Q. What is the climate impact of Line 3?

The climate effects of Line 3 are enormous--Line 3 will carry enough oil to produce about 170 billion kilograms of carbon dioxide per year, equivalent to about 50 coal power plants, or 38 million vehicles on our roads.

Q. What is tar sands "oil"?

The tar sands region in northern Alberta contains a form of fossil fuel that is not what most people would call "oil." The tar sands contain a tar-like substance called bitumen mixed with dirt, sand and rock. This mixture can either be stripmined, which requires the complete destruction of ancient boreal forests, or the bitumen can be melted underground using superheated steam generated by burning huge amounts of

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natural gas and then pumped out using many closely spaced wells. Either process requires enormous amounts of expensive energy and equipment—much more than traditional oil production.

Tar sands extraction process also produces enormous amounts of air and water pollution. It takes six gallons of fresh water to produce one gallon of tar sands gasoline, and the lakes needed to hold the resulting toxic waste are among the biggest man-made creations in history. On a lifetime basis, a gallon of gasoline made from tar sands produces about 21% more carbon dioxide emissions than one made from conventional oil. Expanding this polluting, destructive and expensive industry is tragic and unnecessary given our turn toward renewable energy and electric vehicles.

Q. What is the timeline of the new Line 3 construction process and where are we now?

Enbridge started construction in December 2020, after six years of contentious regulatory hearings in which more than 60,000 Minnesota citizens and tribal members opposed the project on the record, and despite a number of pending lawsuits by tribes, environmental groups, and even Minnesota's own state Department of Commerce, which has opposed this project on solid economic and environmental grounds. Enbridge is racing to complete as much construction as possible before the first court decision to be issued by June 21, 2021. Enbridge claims that it will complete construction and begin operations in late 2021. See here for more detailed information about the timeline and construction process.

Q. Is the pipeline route along water?

In Minnesota, new Line 3 would cross more than 200 water ecosystems and tunnel under 20 rivers, including the Mississippi River—twice—the source of drinking water for millions of people. New Line 3 would threaten many pristine lakes, rivers and streams, including where wild rice grows, a foundation for the Objbwe people's traditional way of life and spiritual practices.

Q. Did the pipeline get a thorough review?

Enbridge has consistently been a top spender on lobbying in Minnesota, spending a record setting \$11 million in 2018 alone. As a result, approval of new Line 3 was based on politics, not science or economics.

Multiple agencies broke the law to pave the way for new Line 3. Rather than take a hard look at Enbridge's claims, federal and state permitting agencies assumed throughout their processes that new Line 3 would be needed and ignored or avoided many hard questions.

For example, the state Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) failed to evaluate the risks of an oil spill into Lake Superior, despite the fact that the pipeline terminates on the shores of the Nemadji River less than three miles upstream from Lake Superior, the site of two major oil spills. Also, the state EIS failed to consider reasonable alternatives to building a new pipeline, such as requiring that Enbridge use its existing pipelines more efficiently. Subsequent data proves that between 2016 and 2020 Enbridge increased throughput on its existing pipelines by more than the net additional capacity that would be provided by constructing new Line 3, making the new pipeline redundant.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission failed to consider public information proving a need for the additional oil in the U.S. that would be shipped by new Line 3, as required by law. Instead, the Utilities Commission relied on the tar sands industry's self-serving and secret internal production forecasts that ignore the rise of electric vehicle use and global efforts to control global warming.

Given this grossly defective administrative record, in 2018 an MN Administrative Law Judge gave her non-binding recommendation against building a new pipeline route because its costs and risks outweighed its benefits. But, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission disregarded this recommendation.

To undermine normal federal permitting processes, the Trump administration rushed through federal permits without a federal EIS, and rubber stamped federal Clean Water Act permits, all to support his cronies in the oil industry.

Q. Does Line 3 violate treaty rights?

The U.S. government has a responsibility under federal law to honor the rights guaranteed to tribal members in their treaties. The proposed Line 3 corridor would violate the treaty rights of the Anishinaabeg by endangering primary areas of hunting, fishing, wild rice and cultural resources in the 1855 treaty territory. The US Supreme Court has upheld the rights of native peoples to hunt, fish and subsist off the land. Line 3 threatens the culture, way of life and physical survival of the Ojibwe people. Along with extensive litigation by multiple tribal governments, leaders of White Earth and Red Lake nations have directly appealed to the Biden administration to stop construction on the project.

Q. What Can Biden Do?

As the letter to Biden backed by over 350 groups demands, Biden must suspend or revoke the Line 3 project's Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. Biden can revoke or amend Line 3's presidential permit, as he did for Keystone XL, to make it clear that the permit does not authorize this massive expansion.

Also, Biden can direct the Army Corps of Engineers to prepare a federal EIS that fully evaluates the risk of oil spills from new Line 3, climate change impacts and threats to Indigenous peoples. Through his cabinet choices, Biden has signalled that climate change is a priority for him. It's time for him to take action to stop this unnecessary and destructive pipeline.

Q. What does the opposition to Line 3 look like?

Resistance to the Line 3 expansion project has been building for several years through direct action, lawsuits and public involvement. There have been a series of state and federal lawsuits -- including by the White Earth, Red Lake, and Mille Lacs Nations, several environmental organizations, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Through a succession of utility commission meetings, there are 68,000 people who oppose the project on public record.

In early March 2021, a diverse coalition of more than 350 environmental and tribal rights organizations that represent well over 10 million supporters sent a letter that demanded President Joe Biden act immediately to halt construction of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline. After the final permits were approved in November, 2020, water protectors set up multiple camps along the pipeline route.

Q. Would a newer Line 3 be safer?

NO. Newer pipelines are not necessarily safer.

The current Line 3 and the new expanded Line 3 are both designed to ship oil to Superior Wisconsin, where the oil is transferred into other Enbridge pipelines for delivery to eastern Canada, US Midwest and Gulf Coast export markets. Line 3 as it exists was built in 1963 using technology vulnerable to corrosion causing numerous spills from the 1970s to early 2000s. To circumvent this, Enbridge reduced operating pressure and instituted yearly high-resolution inspections using modern technology to track ongoing corrosion. As a result, existing Line 3 ships 430,000 barrels per day. In the past decade Line 3's old pipe itself leaked just once spilling less than one gallon of crude oil.

In comparison, the Keystone pipeline was completed in 2010 and spilled 23 times, releasing 503,037 gallons of crude oil. The Dakota Access Pipeline was completed in 2017 and since then has spilled 10 times spilling a total of 1,177 gallons.

Newer pipelines don't necessarily correlate to fewer spills. Building a new Line 3 is not about safety, it's about caving in to the environmentally destructive tar sands industry that puts all of our futures at risk.

Q. Do we need this pipeline to meet domestic energy demands?

NO. The biting irony about Line 3 is that Enbridge is using Minnesota largely as a conduit to feed foreign markets. The U.S. oil industry exports 1 barrel of petroleum for each 2 barrels consumed domestically.

More Canadian crude oil is not needed to meet U.S. demand. Instead, Line 3 will export more petroleum outside of the U.S., that over the past 15 years have increased from 1 million to 9 million barrels per day. In comparison, in December 2020, the U.S. consumed about 18.8 million barrels of petroleum per day, whereas in December 2019 it consumed about 20.4 million barrels per day-- meaning demand for oil is still down about 1.6 million barrels per day.

Q. Will Line 3 create more full-time jobs for Minnesotans?

NO. The majority of these jobs are short-term, part-time hire workers from out-of-state.

Enbridge's fourth quarter 2020 jobs report said only 33% of the 4,632 workers on the project were from Minnesota, and they worked only 28% of the total hours. Enbridge has a job promise that the Line 3 Replacement Project would create, "about 8,600 jobs (6,500 of them local) in Minnesota over a two-year period, including 4,200 union construction jobs, half of which are expected to be filled locally." However, instead of 75% of jobs (6,500 out of 8,600) being local, the opposite is true with nearly 75% of hours worked by out-of-state workers. Also, Enbridge claims that it will start operation of new Line 3 later this year, meaning that construction will take less than one year. But the real jobs – the permanent jobs – lie in removing the old Line 3 for good and in the burgeoning green energy economy.

Q. What is Horizontal Directional Drilling?

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a method of drilling under something – in this case a water body – to cross the water body with a pipeline. It involves drilling a hole underneath a river and/or wetland, lubricating this drill by pumping drilling mud under pressure through the inside of the drill pipe, and installing a prefabricated pipe segment through the hole. Enbridge plans to use this method on 21 of the water crossings on this project.

Q. Is Line 3 being built with old pipes?

Enbridge has been constructing new Line 3 using pipes that may have been exposed to the sun and elements for years. Enbridge took delivery of its first pipe in November 2017, and it is unknown whether its pipes are protected from damage. The corrosion-proof coating on pipes should not be exposed to UV radiation for more than 6 months, according to the National Association of Pipe Coating Applicators. Weathered pipes are extremely dangerous as sun exposure degrades the pipe coating, risking leaks, ruptures and explosions. Enbridge's pipes have been in the sun for years.

Q. How else is Line 3 construction affecting the community?

In February 2021, two Enbridge Line 3 workers were arrested in a sex trafficking sting. This confirmed concerns from pipeline opponents that the influx of men brought in for temporary construction jobs who live in man camps are a danger to Native women who already experience higher rates of trafficking and violence.