



PRESS ADVISORY

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE ENBRIDGE PIPELINE 61 EXPANSION PROJECT'S PERMITTING PROCESS: DESPITE WORRYING LACK OF FIRST RESPONDERS, ENBRIDGE HASTENS CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS

On August 10th, 350 Madison provided the press with a copy of the Petition that our Climate Action Team sent to the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee. It asked the Committee to first revoke the conditional use permit the Committee previously issued for the Enbridge Pipeline 61 expansion project, and then substitute for insurance another assurance mechanism, called "trust funds," because the Enbridge inspired provision inserted into the July 13th state budget only sought to bar insurance requirements on pipelines.

On September 2nd, we supplemented our petition by bringing to the Committee's attention the fact that Enbridge was in violation of other uncontested conditions in the permit relating to emergency responders. The permit required that there be an adequate number of nearby first responders, 350 Madison said, but, in fact, the Town of Medina has recently stated that they do not have a sufficient budget to hire and train enough fire fighters for the town's own needs, let alone adding the staff required to properly protect against pipeline accidents after capacity through the line is tripled.

The Zoning Committee's Corporation Counsel has issued an opinion that the Committee has no power to revisit the original conditional use permit even though it was Enbridge that lobbied for the legislative change that removed an essential condition the Committee believed was necessary to include before it could allow construction of a non-conforming giant pump station on prime agricultural land to move forward. 350 Madison will argue that this particular Assistant Corporation Counsel has seriously misadvised the Committee in this regard.

On August 17th, Enbridge told the Wisconsin State Journal that it would not start construction for 60 to 90 days, but the Canadian company abruptly and without warning began construction just a few days later, in an apparent attempt to conduct an end run around the Committee's efforts to protect Dane County taxpayers from having to bail out the firm in the future when the Tar Sands Oil pipeline inevitably leaks.

350 Madison will be asking the Committee to order Enbridge to suspend construction while it considers its next course.