



PRESS RELEASE

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ENBRIDGE TAR SANDS OIL PIPELINE EXPANSION PLANS IN JEOPARDY ACCORDING TO 350 MADISON

350 Madison today responded to major news out of Minnesota that threatens to upend Enbridge's plans to greatly expand its tar sands oil pipelines through the Midwest, including Wisconsin.

Enbridge has been engaged in major survey work in preparation for construction of a new Line 66 (aka "Line 61 Twin") between Superior and Delavan next year, according to [plans it announced to its investors](#).

A new Line 66 through the state would make it possible to dramatically increase exploitation of the Alberta tar sands deposits, with oil that releases about four times more greenhouse gases during extraction than conventional oil, which is why climate expert James Hansen warned that it would be "game over" for the world's climate.

To get that oil to Wisconsin, however, it must first leave Canada and cross Minnesota. Today, the Minnesota Department of Commerce submitted [testimony](#) to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) opposing approval of the Minnesota segment of the pipeline, known as Line 3. The PUC stated:

Oil market analysis indicates that Enbridge has not established a need for the proposed project; the pipeline would primarily benefit areas outside Minnesota; and serious environmental and socioeconomic risks and effects outweigh limited benefits.

The testimony also recommends conditions the PUC should impose if it decides to issue a certificate of need for Line 3. These include the same insurance recommendations of risk management expert David Dybdahl that the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee adopted in 2015, requiring Enbridge to purchase cleanup insurance before expanding its tar sands pipelines through the county.

If Minnesota ends up rejecting new Line 3, "proposed Line 66 will also be canceled," predicted 350 Madison spokesperson Mary Beth Elliott.

"This is a key turning point," she said. "The people are demanding that we follow scientists' call to phase out fossil fuels in order to preserve a livable world for our children."

It will be interesting to see if the Minnesota PUC follows the Department of Commerce's recommendations.

Questions? Looking for an interview? Contact: Mary Beth Elliott, 608-836-1220 / cell 608-695-7501, gutsugua@gmail.com.

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The 350 Madison Climate Action Team is dedicated to achieving a just transition to a reduction in atmospheric CO₂ below 350 parts per million (ppm) by working locally in concert with a powerful global movement.