

Fall 2016 Pipeline Update

By: Jeff Mosner - Friends of the Headwaters (FOH)

Line3 Pipeline

Although Enbridge has, for the time being, decided not to pursue building its proposed Sandpiper pipeline, it still IS proposing to go ahead with a new Line3 pipeline, which is even worse than Sandpiper (bigger and riskier in our water-rich environment). Enbridge calls this a “replacement” of its existing Line3 pipeline which follows along Hwy 2 through Bemidji and Grand Rapids ending in Superior, WI. However they are not replacing it in its current route but are proposing a NEW more southerly route through Hubbard County, then east to Superior. This is the same route they were proposing for Sandpiper. We at FOH are not against pipelines, as long as they do not jeopardize our vulnerable lakes, rivers, wetlands and water aquifers. As with Sandpiper, we have advanced alternative routes to be considered in the Environmental Impact Study process. Our “system alternative”, SA-04, which goes more directly from the Alberta oil fields through SW Minnesota and onto Illinois where the refineries exist will be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Study (see below).

FOH Motion to Extend or Reopen the EIS Scoping Period

On September 26th FOH, with its legal representative, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) filed a motion to extend or reopen the EIS scoping period because of developments occurring after the current scoping period ended (May 26th) which demonstrate that the project has fundamentally changed from the one originally proposed. You may read this motion and the reasons for it [here](#).

The Public Utility Commissioners met on 10/28 in St Paul to determine what action should the Commission take concerning the motion to extend the scoping period filed by Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy/Friends of the Headwaters; what alternative pipeline routes and route segments should the Commission accept for consideration at the public hearings; and should the Commission approve the proposed scope of the environmental impact statement. You can view audio or video of this meeting [here](#). Briefly, the motion to reopen the scoping was denied and the EIS proposed scoping document was approved (both unanimously). A summarised outcome of these decisions can be found in this [Mpls Strib article](#).

Scoping for Line3 Environmental Impact Study (EIS)

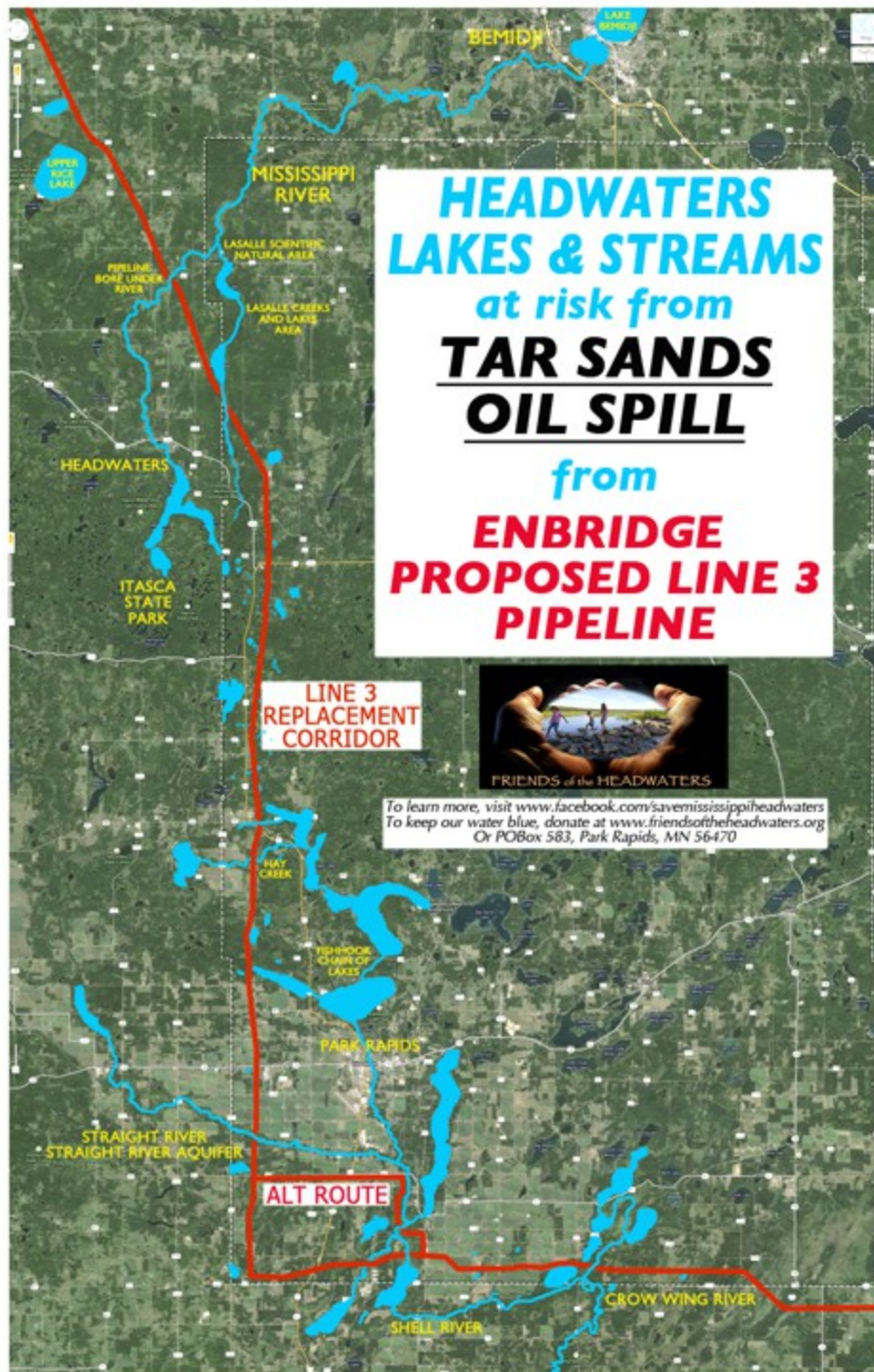
On December 5th, the Department of Commerce (DOC) came out with their “Final Scoping Decision” for the EIS on Line3. You can access this document directly [here](#). A tentative schedule for this EIS as well as maps of all alternative routes to be compared can be found [here](#).

The Walker Pilot ran a good article recently explaining the current status of the pipeline – you can access it [here](#). The following link includes a [schedule for the Line 3 PUC process](#).

Over the coming winter months, I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to learn more about what we are advocating, donate to our cause, retrieve the latest news, view events, read what local “voices” are saying as well as see what actions you can take to become a part of this effort. Also be sure to “like” FOH's Facebook site at <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters> to get the latest breaking reports.

All of us at FOH thank you for your help and support!

Here's a local map that shows the route of Line3 through our Hubbard County lakes and rivers...



Friends of the Headwaters Mission: To inform and educate persons to the environmental risks to Minnesota waters from two proposed oil pipelines which will jeopardize the Mississippi River Headwaters, many other lakes and streams and wild rice wetlands in northern Minnesota. FOH & MCEA, our legal partner, won a unanimous Minnesota Appellate Court ruling, upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court, ordering the state of Minnesota to conduct the first environmental impact study, EIS, on a crude oil pipeline in Minnesota history. This is a landmark decision for MN environmental law.