

## October 2016 Pipeline Update

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

### **Line3 Pipeline**

Last month I had reported that 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 route to the south through Hubbard County, then east to Superior. This is the same route they were proposing for Sandpiper. We at FOH are not against these pipelines, as long as they do not jeopardize our vulnerable lakes, rivers, wetlands and water aquifers. As with Sandpiper, we will be advancing alternative routes to be considered in the Environmental Impact Study process.

### **Scoping for Line3 Environmental Impact Study (EIS)**

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has come out with their “Proposed Final Scoping Decision” for the EIS on Line3. You can access these documents directly (there are many) on the PUC site [here](#) – search for Docket 14 – 916. All documents dated 9/22/2016 are the relevant ones.

### **FOH Motion to Extend or Reopen the EIS Scoping Period**

On September 26<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup>) which demonstrate that the project has fundamentally changed from the one originally proposed. You may read this motion and the reasons for it [here](#).

### **PUC Meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>**

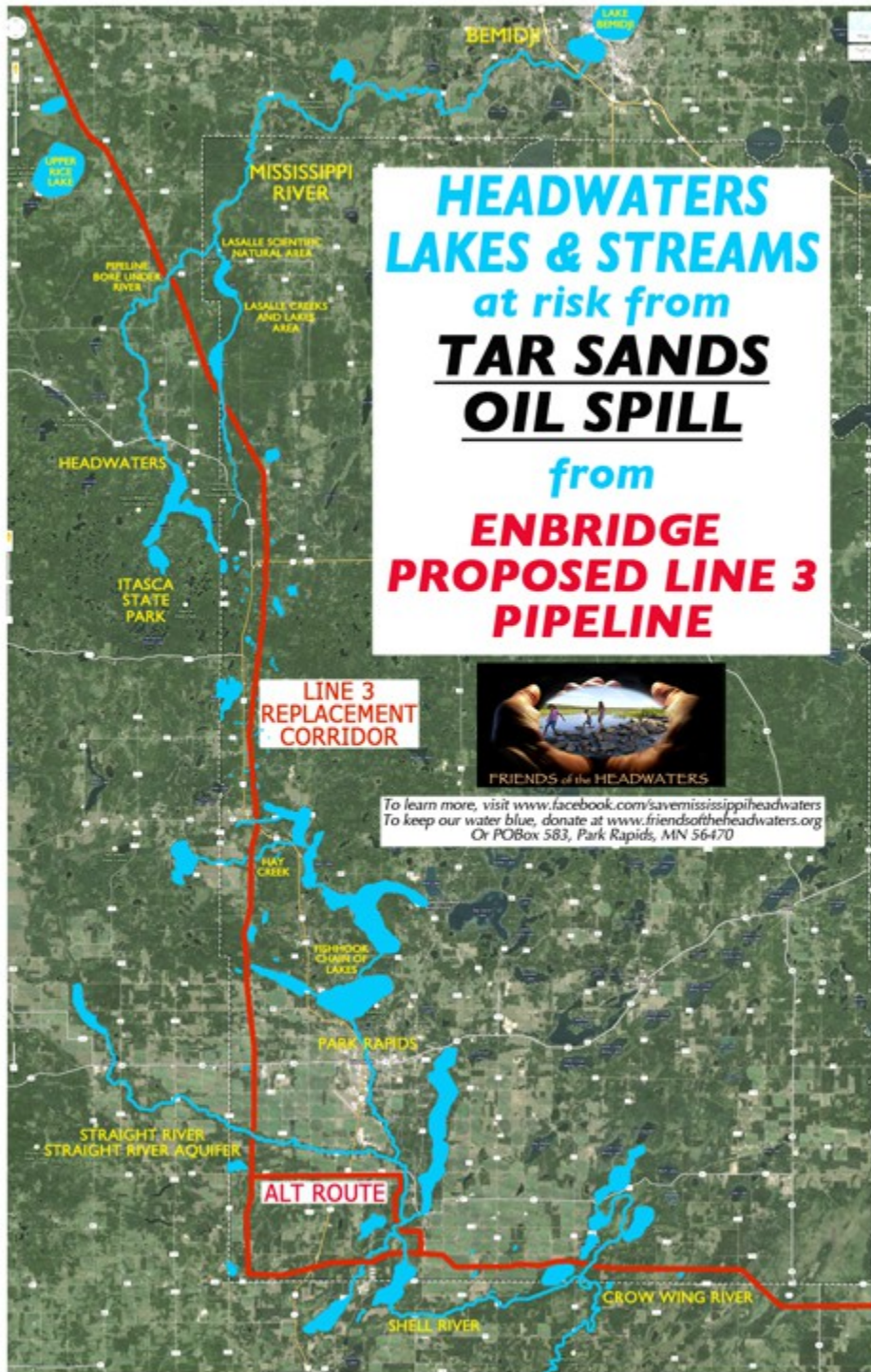
The Public Utility Commissioners will meet on 10/28 in St Paul to determine what action should the Commission take concerning the motions filed by Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy/Friends of the Headwaters; what alternative pipeline routes and route segments should the Commission accept for consideration at the public hearings; and should the Commission approve the proposed scope of the environmental impact statement. Some of these meetings are webcast. If it is, you will be able to access it [here](#).

The Walker Pilot ran a good article recently explaining the current status of the pipeline – you can access it [here](#).

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.*