

Oil Change International

On behalf of Oil Change International, 4,070 of our supporters are sending you the following message:

"I'm writing to urge the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to deny the Clean Water Act 401 application submitted by Enbridge Energy for the Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline. The construction of Line 3 as outlined in this application would do irreparable harm to the wetlands and waterways along the proposed route, to the communities that live there, and to our climate.

The draft 401 permit states this project will degrade high-quality waters, and the MPCA cannot legally approve a project that degrades waters of the state unless the agency finds the project has enough 'social and economic benefits' to offset this degradation. The proposed 401 permit does not account for net social costs and economic benefits. The Minnesota Department of Commerce has consistently maintained that the project does not carry enough potential benefits to outweigh its flaws. The MPCA must do its own accounting of costs and benefits rather than abdicating its authority in this regard to the Public Utilities Commission's split decision, where even the commissioners could not reach consensus on the overall need for the project.

The MPCA's mission is to protect and improve the environment and human health, and climate change is one of the most preeminent threats to those stakeholders. Line 3's contents would have a climate impact of 193 million tons of CO₂ per year, more than the annual emissions of Minnesota's entire economy; this totals a 30-year social cost of \$287 billion, calculated conservatively. A warming and destabilized world poses grave risks to the integrity of Minnesota's rivers, lakes, and streams, as many studies have shown.

An oil spill would ruin water quality, negatively impact drinking water, degrade critical aquatic and riparian habitats, and threaten sacred wild rice beds and other food sources central to the lives and livelihoods of Indigenous people. The FEIS states that adverse impacts of the Line 3 project would fall disproportionately on Native communities, which is incompatible with MPCA's stated commitment to environmental justice. I urge the MPCA to choose the only option to truly protect our water resources and communities: Don't let Enbridge build a new tar sands pipeline. Reject the Line 3 pipeline's permit application under Clean Water Act Section 401."