

Final Draft-Fundraising Letter Template (10/20/2014) Prepared by Greg Johnson, Pine River Watershed Alliance (PWRA) Board member

DATE

Dear Friends of Minnesota's Lake Country,

We are writing you today to let you know of the efforts of concerned citizens this spring and summer in opposition to the Sandpiper Pipeline. A large dedicated group of volunteers has been working hard to try to persuade the MN Public Utilities Commission(PUC) that Enbridge's proposed route for this pipeline through the heart of lake country is not a viable approach. Both the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency(MPCA) and the Dept. of Natural Resources(DNR) agree. We have had some success as the PUC has directed that all alternative routes should be considered. In addition, they have separated the Certificate of Need from the routing decision and stated that the comparative environmental review will be a multi-department effort, not just the MN Department of Commerce(DOC). These decisions are indeed reasons to celebrate and hold hope that we can change the routing of this pipeline. Attached is a fact sheet with further details and links to more information.

Much work remains to be done. Three organizations-Friends of the Headwaters, Carlton County Land Stewards and Honor the Earth-have been carrying the majority of the burden in interfacing with the PUC. Many of us have written letters to support their efforts and more letters will need to be written before this is concluded.

On the immediate horizon are two critical events. First, we must try to convince the PUC that this is a totally new pipeline corridor and deserves a full environmental impact study by the DOC, MPCA and the DNR-NOT just a comparative environmental review.

Second, the Certificate of Need hearings will be coming up soon and in order to testify before the PUC the citizen organizations listed above must hire a certified expert on pipeline economics. The expert's consulting fees could amount to \$75,000. Additional legal fees throughout the remainder of the PUC hearings process might amount to as much as \$125,000 by next March.

Enbridge has already spent millions and is prepared to spend millions more to ensure that they get their way. Look around as you travel the lake country and you will see pipeline stockpiles already in place and other signs that Enbridge is confident they will prevail.

Local citizens, snowbirds, weekenders and others who live on or near lakes and rivers and use them for enjoyment throughout the year far outnumber the Enbridge forces and provide much more economic benefit to the area than a pipeline. The large sum needed divided by those of us who love this area and do not want a pipeline corridor through water-rich Central Minnesota is a relatively small amount per person. Can you help with a tax deductible donation to support these efforts? Any amount would be helpful and should be sent to Friends of the Headwaters. They are a 501C3 organization and contact information is on the enclosed fact sheet. Your gifts will not guarantee success, but without them we will have little chance to change this pipeline routing.

Salutation

SANDPIPER FACT SHEET

FRIENDS OF THE HEADWATERS:

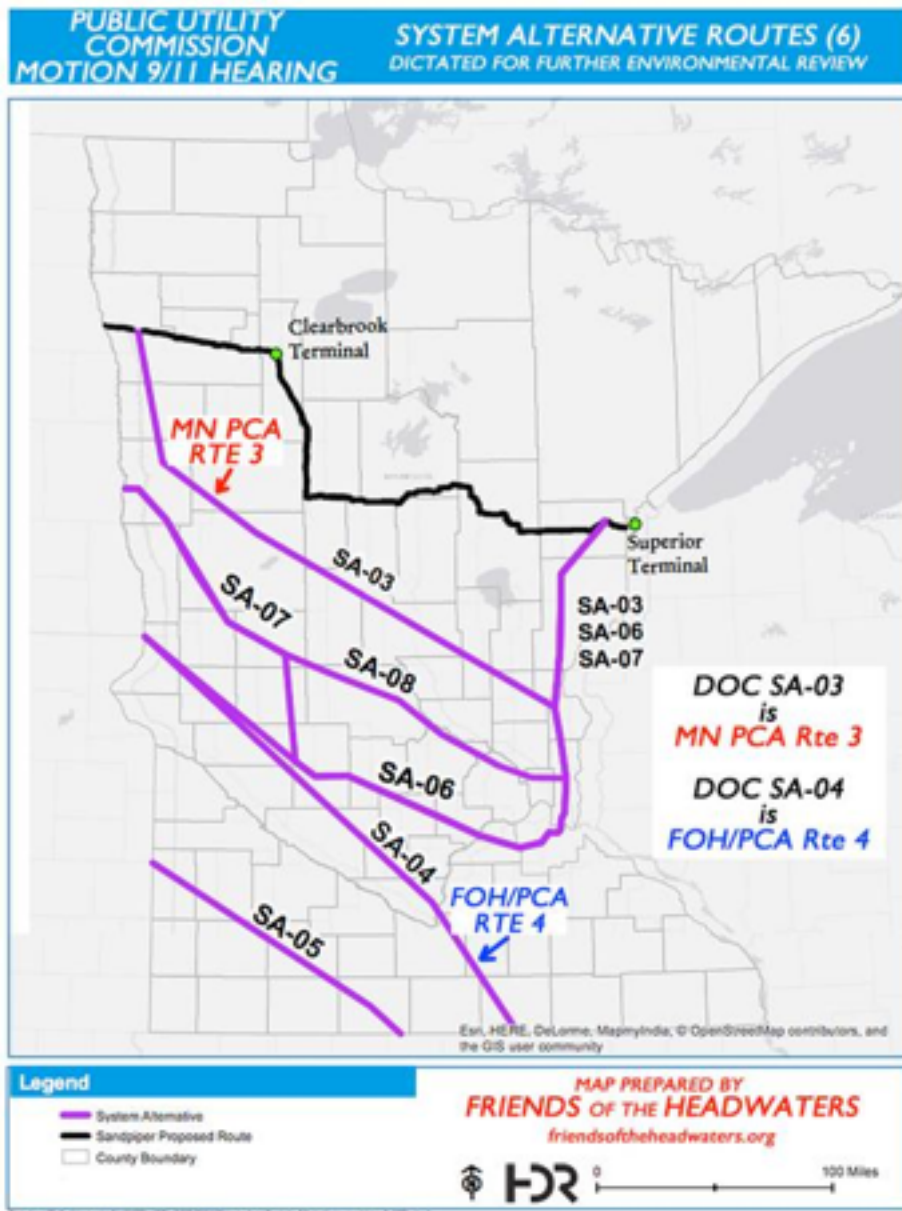
WEBSITE: www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org

DONATIONS: <http://www.friendsoftheheadwaters.org/donate.html>

ADDRESS: Friends of the Headwaters, P.O. Box 583, Park Rapids, MN 56470

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/savemississippiheadwaters>

PROPOSED ROUTES:



This route jeopardizes Minnesota's natural resources.

- This pipeline route crosses the clearest lakes area in MN based on the Census of Water Clarity (U of MN Water Resources Center).
- This pipeline route crosses an area with the highest susceptibility for groundwater contamination based on data and maps from the DNR.
- The pipeline route crosses the wild rice lakes area. According to the DNR, MN supplies 50% of the world's hand-picked rice annually.
- The pipeline route crosses areas that are 20 to 40% wetland (DNR).
- The proposed route of the Sandpiper pipeline and the Line 3 "rebuild" would cross 8 state forests (including the Mississippi Headwaters SF), 3 wildlife management areas, 13 trout streams (including the Straight River), as well as the North Country Trail. This pipeline would carry 375,000 barrels of Bakken crude oil PER DAY. Between 1992 and 2011, 2,516,625 million barrels of petroleum were spilled by pipelines in the US. (The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, June 2013) Only 40% of this spilled oil was recovered. (PHMSA and US DOT "Office of Hazardous Materials Safety")
- The amount of oil in the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline under the Mississippi River, as compared to the amount of water passing by in the same period of time is: 3.8 million gallons of water emptying from Lake Itasca into the Mississippi River every day; and 15.75 million gallons of oil will cross under the Mississippi River the same day.
- Enbridge is a Canadian company and is using a shell company, North Dakota Pipeline Co. LLC as its agent in this pipeline application.
- Enbridge touts a 99.9993 percent safety record. Sandpiper will ship 15,760,000 gallons per day and at that safety level would leak 110.25 gallons per day or 18,241 gallons per year.
- Enbridge stated in a recent public meeting that they expect a spill of between 4,000 and 10,000 barrels to be in their detection and shutdown levels. This does not include oil in the pipeline between valves that could gravity leak after the shutdown occurs and is also subject to a human operator detecting the leak and acting promptly.
- MPCA has identified 28 sites on the proposed route that are remote and not accessible for spill detection or clean-up.
- The proposed route will become a corridor for additional future pipelines and Enbridge has already proposed Line 3 rebuild for this route, if Sandpiper is approved.
- Bakken crude oil has higher volatile components than other crude oils. Light hydrocarbons have some water solubility and some are carcinogenic. Cities, including Minneapolis and St. Paul relying on river water for their municipal supply, would be jeopardized. A recent spill in the Yellowstone River saw benzene (a carcinogen) at dangerous levels traveling hundreds of miles downstream.
- None of the oil going through the pipeline will be used in Minnesota or stay in the state. Enbridge has not stated where the oil will be shipped once it reaches Superior, Wisconsin.
- A performance bond is not required from Enbridge, so each county along the route will receive a small amount of property taxes per year, but Minnesotans will ultimately bear the costs of a spill and reclamation if they cannot be collected from North Dakota Pipeline or Enbridge after a spill occurs.
- Bakken oil moves by railroad to refineries not served by current pipelines. Sandpiper may or may not reduce rail movement. Canadian Pacific is investing billions in rail expansion and expects to double oil movement to the West and East Coasts over the next decade. More information on railroads, oil and grain is available on the Friends of the Earth Website.
- Jobs created by Sandpiper construction will be temporary, since the construction schedule is short, and most jobs will be filled by skilled out-of-state workers with pipeline experience.

