

PRESS RELEASE

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Friends of the Headwaters (FOH) and the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA) are pleased to learn Enbridge, dba North Dakota Pipeline Company, officially withdrew its application to build the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline. This pipeline would have carried Bakken oil through Minnesota's water-rich headwaters lake country, and was never a good fit for the state of Minnesota.

Richard Smith, president of Friends of the Headwaters said, "If it weren't for the unanimous ruling for an Environmental Impact Statement won in the MN courts by MCEA and FOH with amicus help from CCLS , Enbridge might already have its permits."

Enbridge has pulled its application for the Sandpiper pipeline project, but has also informed the State of Minnesota they fully intend to proceed with the Line 3 Replacement project. Although Enbridge calls their project a "replacement" of Line 3, their new Line 3 proposal would double the capacity of the original pipeline, and build it in a new corridor, the same corridor for which it had proposed the now-abandoned Sandpiper project. "Enbridge had originally proposed two pipelines for this corridor, and now it is only proposing one," said Kathryn Hoffman, attorney representing FOH. This is a different project now, and the agencies will need to reevaluate this project from the ground up."

"It's bad enough that Enbridge wanted to push Bakken oil through Minnesota's prime lake country," said Richard Smith, president of FOH, "but for them to believe a new tar sands oil pipeline through these same waters is okay is even worse." Smith referenced a National Academy of Sciences Report on Dilbit (tar sands oil) produced after Enbridge's tragic Kalamazoo River spill in Michigan. "The report had two key take-aways," he said, "one, a tar sands pipeline should never be placed in a water-rich environment like ours in Minnesota; and two, our regulatory agencies and first responders do not have the necessary experience to deal with a tar sands oil spill."

FOH and its legal representative, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), contended from the beginning that Enbridge should consider alternative routes for the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines that did not connect in Superior, Wisconsin, but instead connected more directly to refineries in the lower Midwest. "We always knew Enbridge wanted to move Bakken oil to refineries in the Midwest near Chicago." said Kathryn Hoffman, MCEA attorney for FOH. "Their recent announcement they were buying into the Dakota Access Pipeline from North Dakota to Illinois has proven us right."