

Volunteer Line 3 Route Monitors

A coalition of people opposed to the Enbridge Line 3 crude oil pipeline is recruiting guardians of our land and water. Volunteers would adopt a section of the pipeline route and document current conditions on the ground. In the worst-case scenario that construction starts, monitors would continue to document ongoing work. We have a team of volunteers ready to support you. You would:

1. **Document pre-construction conditions:** We want to document conditions along the proposed Line 3 route prior to any work. This will allow us to hold Enbridge accountable for restoration requirements.
2. **Monitor “pre-construction” work:** Enbridge is allowed to do “pre-construction” work prior to receiving all of its needed permits. This includes creating pipe storage yards and geotechnical boring. Utility workers have begun clearing trees for the power lines needed for Enbridge’s pumping stations. This work already has begun and we want to document all new activity.
3. **Monitor construction:** In the event Enbridge does get the green light, we will need to monitor Line 3’s construction phase to make sure Enbridge lives up to its permit conditions. This will be particularly important at water crossings and in wetlands, where pipeline construction and possible spills would be most damaging.
4. **Long-term:** If the project is allowed to proceed, we will want to monitor post-construction work to make sure that Enbridge does appropriate restoration work.

By volunteering now, you are not committing to all four phases. We invite to participate at the level that you can, and for the time that you can.

Monitoring will be done in teams where possible. Most monitoring will be done from public roads. You can usually see the proposed route from the road by the flagging in the ground, or because the route is following an existing power line corridor.

You don’t have to be an expert in the Line 3 permits and state rules or file official complaints. Your role is to submit photographs and written observations about what is happening on your section of the route. Volunteers with expertise in regulations and law will review these field reports and decide what follow up is needed, if any.

We are happy to provide training and answer questions. This is a learning process for all of us. We are following pipeline monitoring models developed in Iowa and North Carolina. We will learn together and improve our process as we go.

For more information contact us at: watchthelinemn@gmail.com

Enbridge Line 3 Basics

Enbridge is Canada's largest pipeline company. It's proposing to abandon its existing and failing Line 3 pipeline through northern Minnesota and to build a higher capacity pipeline, much of it along a new route. The pipeline would carry 760,000 barrels a day of Canadian tar sands oil, an extremely dirty fossil fuel. The proposed route would run 340 miles from Minnesota's northwest corner to Duluth/Superior.

This project won't improve our energy security. It would add to climate damage, the equivalent of approving 50 new coal-fired electrical plants. Further, Enbridge has a history of large oil spills, including a 2010 Michigan spill where cleanup costs topped \$1 billion. Spill risks of any size threaten Minnesota's cleanest waters, wild rice, tourism, and Ojibwe treaty rights.

Enbridge Line 3 is one of several proposed pipeline expansion projects. The Keystone XL pipeline would transport tar sands crude from Alberta to Port Arthur, Texas. The Canadian Trans Mountain Pipeline would run from Alberta to Vancouver. All these projects lock us into decades of fossil fuel consumption at the very time we desperately need to scale back.

Line 3 would cost nearly \$3 billion and generate a number of construction jobs, both local union jobs as well as attracting out-of-state non-union workers. The Line 3 environmental impact statement raised concerns about the connection between the large influx of out-of-state workers and increases in drug and sex trafficking along the construction route. The risk is particularly high for Native American women and girls.

Line 3 has gone a complicated regulatory review including the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the Minnesota Department of Commerce, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). So far, state regulators have failed to protect the land and water – and the residents who depend on them.

Instead, decisions have favored the interests of a foreign corporation. The PUC approved Line 3 permits in June of 2018. It ignored arguments about climate change. It ignored arguments about treaty rights. It ignored long-term spill risks.

Line 3 opponents have legal challenges pending in the Minnesota Court of Appeals. Line 3 also needs MPCA water crossing permits, a tall order given that Line 3's proposed route would cross the Mississippi River twice, cross 75 miles of wetlands, and cross an additional 200 water bodies.

Indigenous nations, environmental groups, young activists worried about their future, and regular citizens have worked long and hard to stop this unneeded and dangerous project. Please join us in this critical work.