

Pipeline Update

By: Jeff Mosner (Friends of the Headwaters)

Last month I provided a fairly extensive explanation of developments over this past fall and winter related to the Sandpiper and Line 3 pipelines proposed to cross Hubbard County. [Click here](#) if you missed this report (or need a refresher). This month we have been provided with three new opportunities for our voices to be heard. These are outlined below:

Change to “RGU”

On March 10, 2016, the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) received a citizen request for a different Responsible Governmental Unit (RGU) for the environmental review of the North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC’s proposed Sandpiper Pipeline and Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership’s proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline projects.

More specifically, the citizen requests that the EQB relieve the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of its current RGU status for the above-entitled projects and replace it with a joint RGU consisting of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (“PCA”) and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (“DNR”).

At this time EQB is gathering additional information on the merits of the request to designate a different RGU for the proposed projects.

Consequently, the EQB is providing a 30-day comment period, starting on Friday, April 1, 2016 through 4:30 pm on Monday, May 2, for additional information relevant to Minnesota Rules 4410.0500 and whether to designate a different RGU for the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline and the proposed Line 3 Replacement Pipeline.

Comments may be provided to EQB in writing via email at Pipelines.EQB@state.mn.us.

The EQB will present a Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order which will come before the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board at its regular meeting on May 18, 2016.

PUC Hearings on Scoping of the Environment Assessment for Sandpiper and Line 3

There will be a PUC hearing in Park Rapids on Tuesday, May 3, 2016 10:00 am –1:00 pm American Legion 900 East 1st Street and again from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Park Rapids Century School 501 Helten Avenue. Please consider attending one of these hearings to learn more or lend your voice.

[Click here](#) for more detailed information related to these hearings scheduled across the state between April 25 and May 11 as well as how to submit written comments. Written comments will be accepted through Thursday, May 26, 2016 online or by mail.

Friends of the Headwaters wants to ensure that this Environmental Impact Statement is done right--that the planned EIS is supervised by scientists and specialists, people with the expertise, academic credentials, and experience necessary to complete a comprehensive and honest EIS on an oil pipeline. We are working to make that happen.

Sign our Petition

You can quite easily help by signing our petition to insure that the EIS for the Sandpiper and other new oil pipelines crossing Minnesota fully complies with all State laws and provides for the highest level of protection of its natural resources. What better way to make your voice heard especially with Earth Day just last week, a week proclaimed by Governor Dayton as **Water Action Week**. Please [click here](#) to view and sign the petition (and share with like-minded friends).

I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to donate to this 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.