

March 2017 Pipeline Update

By: Jeff Mosner - Friends of the Headwaters (FOH)

Line 3 Pipeline

It has been a relatively quiet winter on the “pipeline front” as we await the release of the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) from the Department of Commerce (DOC). This draft document is expected in early April. There will then be a 60 day public comment period. Besides accepting written comments, the DOC will again hold public hearings at up to 22 locations along the proposed pipeline route.

For anyone needing a bit of a “refresher”...Enbridge has, for the time being, decided not to pursue building its proposed Sandpiper pipeline, but still IS proposing to go ahead with a new Line 3 pipeline, which is even worse than Sandpiper (bigger and riskier in our water-rich environment). Enbridge calls this a “replacement” of its existing Line 3 pipeline which follows along Hwy 2 through Bemidji and Grand Rapids ending in Superior, WI. However they are not replacing it in its current route but are proposing a NEW more southerly route through Hubbard County, then east to Superior. This is the same route they were proposing for Sandpiper. We at FOH are not against pipelines, as long as they do not jeopardize our vulnerable lakes, rivers, wetlands and water aquifers. As with Sandpiper, we have advanced alternative routes to be considered in the Environmental Impact Study process. Our “system alternative”, SA-04, which goes more directly from the Alberta tar sands oil fields through SW Minnesota and onto Illinois where the refineries exist, is being analyzed in the Environmental Impact Study.

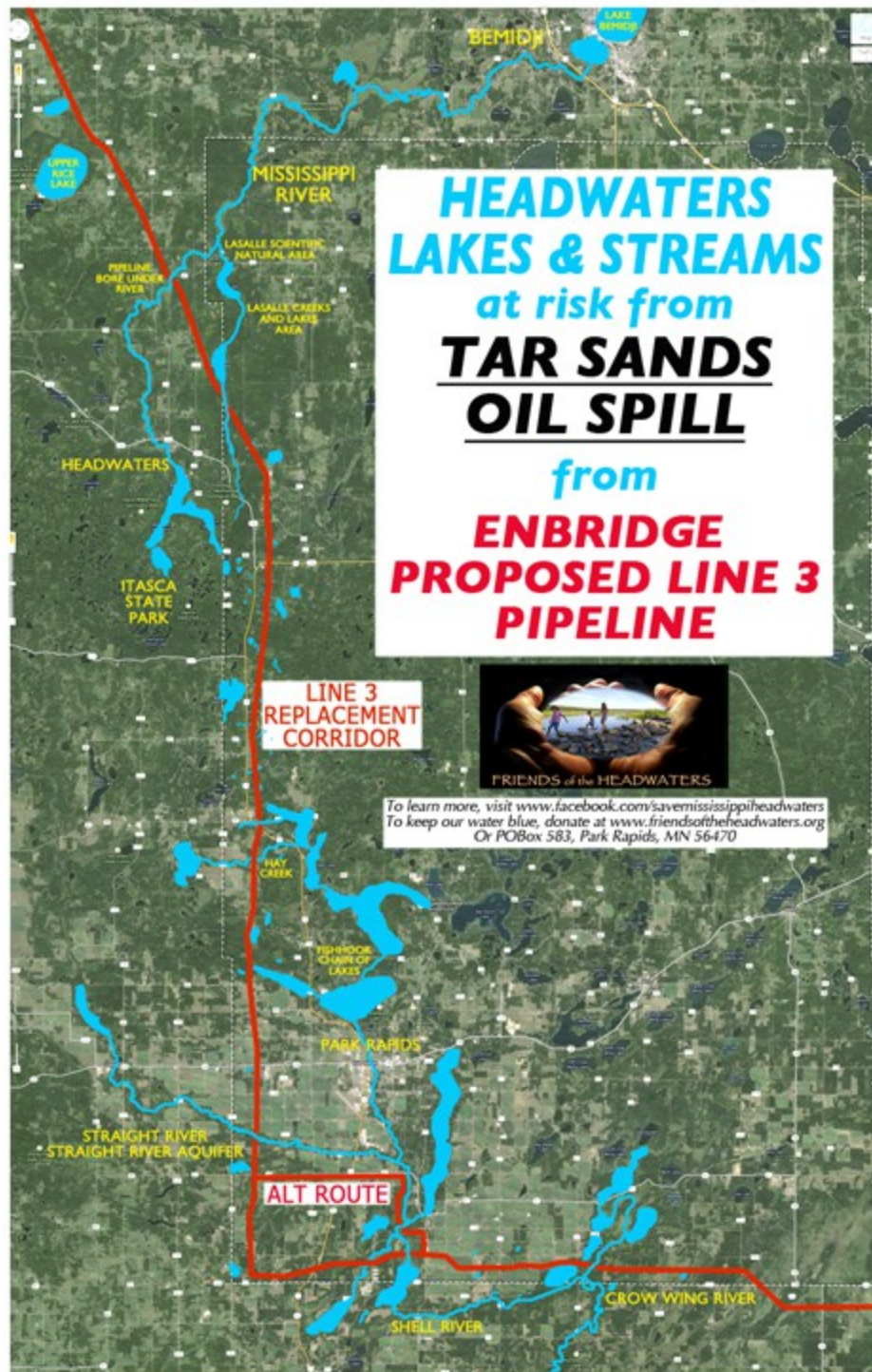
A tentative schedule for this EIS as well as maps of all alternative routes to be compared can be found [here](#). The following link includes a [schedule for the Line 3 PUC process](#).

FOH's contract for legal counsel with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy has ended. We are seeking different counsel for the upcoming contested case hearings this fall.

I recently made major updates to the FOH website reflecting the shift from Sandpiper to Line 3. (I also made necessary changes to the “pipeline pages” portion of our HC COLA website.) I encourage you to visit FOH's website at <http://friendsoftheheadwaters.org/index.html> to learn more about what we are advocating, donate to our 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.

All of us at FOH thank you for your help and support!

Here's a local map that shows the route of Line3 through our Hubbard County lakes and rivers...



Friends of the Headwaters Mission: To inform and educate persons to the environmental risks to Minnesota waters from two proposed oil pipelines which will jeopardize the Mississippi River Headwaters, many other lakes and streams and wild rice wetlands in northern Minnesota. FOH & MCEA, our legal partner, won a unanimous Minnesota Appellate Court ruling, upheld by the Minnesota Supreme Court, ordering the state of Minnesota to conduct the first environmental impact study, EIS, on a crude oil pipeline in Minnesota history. This is a landmark decision for MN environmental law.