MEA Supports Wisconsinites Voicing Concern Over Line 5 Pipeline Risks

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CONTACT: Rob Lee, MEA Staff Attorney, (608) 251-5047 x 8
rlee@midwestadvocates.org
Peg Sheaffer, Communications Director, (608) 247-9684
psheaffer@midwestadvocates.org

MADISON, WI—Today, at a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources hearing on Enbridge Energy’s controversial plan to build a new segment of the Line 5 pipeline in Ashland and Iron Counties, members of the public voiced opposition to the project by a 10-to-1 margin. More than 70 people spoke in opposition, while only 6 people spoke in favor of a construction project that would allow Enbridge to continue operating the hazardous liquid pipeline in environmentally sensitive areas including the Bad River, Lake Superior, and Lake Michigan watersheds.

As a nonprofit environmental law center committed to protecting the rights of all people to live in a clean and healthy environment, Midwest Environmental Advocates supports those who have asked DNR to fully consider the significant threats posed by the project and to ultimately reject Enbridge’s permit application.

While intense public interest filled today’s online hearing to capacity, DNR staff concluded the hearing by pointing to additional opportunities to provide feedback. MEA urges all those who view this project as a threat to clean water, public health and a stable climate to share their concerns by submitting written comments to DNR by email or postal mail by July 11th.

DNR has asked for public input on the scope of issues the agency will address in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that it will prepare for the new segment of Line 5. The agency is also accepting comments on Enbridge’s application for permits to disturb and fill wetlands and cross dozens of waterways along the proposed pipeline route.

“Today’s hearing was an indication of how little public support exists for this project,” said Tony Wilkin Gibart, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates. “Enbridge’s plan represents a clear threat to the health and safety of Wisconsin communities and the natural resources on which they rely. We fully expect to see opposition continue to grow as additional opportunities for public input are made available in the coming months.”

Visit the website of Midwest Environmental Advocates to learn more about Line 5 in Wisconsin.

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