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## Media Notice

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Legal Filing Calls for a Recertification of Lines 4 and 67 -- and an Investigation into Enbridge's Mainline Pipeline Capacity Additions and Efficiency Upgrades Since 2016***

### **HONOR THE EARTH FILES COMPLAINT AND PETITION FOR INVESTIGATION ASSERTING THAT ENBRIDGE HAS EXPANDED THE CAPACITY OF ITS EXISTING PIPELINES BY MORE THAN THE NET AMOUNT THAT WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE LINE 3 REPLACEMENT PROJECT, MAKING A NEW PIPELINE REDUNDANT**

CALLAWAY, MINN., -- October 27, 2020 – Today, Honor the Earth filed a Petition for Investigation and Complaint with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Petition for Investigation requests that the PUC open a formal investigation into:

- A number of efficiency-based capacity additions that Enbridge brought online between 2016 and 2020, that together have allowed Enbridge to import an additional 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil through Minnesota, including through expansions of Lines 2, 3, 4, and 65, as well as more efficient use of the overall system;
- Enbridge's proposal to further expand the capacities of Lines 4 and 67 through Minnesota, by an additional 178,400 bpd; and
- A decrease in demand for Canadian crude oil caused by the global response to COVID-19, that earlier this year caused imports to drop by approximately 400,000 bpd and cast significant doubt on future expansions of Canadian crude oil production.

Together, Enbridge's completed and proposed efficiency-based expansions provide far more crude oil import capacity than the 370,000 bpd of new capacity that would be created if the proposed new Line 3 Pipeline is constructed.

**READ THE FULL LEGAL FILING HERE:**

<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/verification/viewServedDocument.do?method=showSubmissionInfo&reqFrom=viewServedDocuments&selectedId=147980&docketNumber=PL9/CN-14-916&showList=true#displayInfo>

### **A Separate Formal Complaint Alleges that Enbridge is required by law to seek recertification of Lines 4 and 67**

In addition, Honor the Earth filed a Formal Complaint against Enbridge for failing to seek “recertification” of its proposed capacity additions to Line 4 and 67, as required by PUC regulation when a pipeline’s capacity is increased by 10 percent or more.

Throughout the Line 3 hearing process, Honor the Earth consistently argued that Enbridge could transport more oil than the proposed new Line 3 Pipeline by simply using its existing pipelines more efficiently, thereby making a new Line 3 Pipeline unnecessary. Now, Enbridge’s own data and statements prove that Honor the Earth’s arguments were correct. Unfortunately, the PUC refused to investigate Enbridge’s ability to transport more crude oil by using its existing pipes more efficiently, and instead shoved an unnecessary new pipeline down Minnesota’s throat.

“Federal data shows that Enbridge has already expanded the ‘effective’ capacity of its pipelines through northern Minnesota by approximately 400,000 bpd simply by using its existing pipelines more efficiently,” says Paul Blackburn, Staff Attorney for Honor the Earth. He added, “Now, Enbridge has imminent plans to increase the capacity of Lines 4 and 67 by a total of 178,400 bpd. Together, these efficiency-based expansions create far more capacity than would be provided by the proposed Line 3 Pipeline’s net capacity increase of 370,000 bpd. As a result, Enbridge has already met the need that formed the basis for the PUC’s approval of the Line 3 Replacement Project.”

With regard to Honor the Earth’s Complaint, Blackburn says, “Enbridge wants to further expand its Lines 4 and 67 by 88,500 bpd and 89,900 bpd, respectively, or by more than 10 percent each. The law requires that Enbridge seek recertification of capacity expansions of 10 percent or more.”

**Moreover, Enbridge also has recently increased the average annual capacity of existing Line 3 in Minnesota from 390,000 bpd to 430,000 bpd, an increase of 40,000 bpd, which expansion should also be subject to investigation.**

### **Once Again, the PUC Has Been Played by Enbridge**

“Once again we see how the PUC has been played by Enbridge for a new pipeline that isn’t needed and could become a stranded asset, given the global impacts from the pandemic on the failing tar sands oil industry in Canada,” adds Winona LaDuke, Executive Director and co-founder of Honor the Earth, an indigenous-led non profit organization focused on environmental justice issues and located on the White Earth Reservation.

The Enbridge Mainline System includes six pipelines running through northern Minnesota (Lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 65, and 67). Much of its corridor cuts through Native American Treaty lands and some of the most pristine watersheds and ecosystems in the state.

For more information – or to interview Paul Blackburn and or Winona LaDuke about the Complaint and other issues related to Line 3 – please contact Martin Keller, Media Savant Communications, 612-729-8585, [mkeller@mediasavantcom.com](mailto:mkeller@mediasavantcom.com)