Pipeline Abandonment

Enbridge's current plan for the 60 year old pipeline, Line 3, is to abandon it and create an entirely new pipeline corridor with the same name. They are calling this a "replacement."

The only pipeline abandonment regulations currently in place in the U.S. state that hazardous materials (such as oil) must be removed and paperwork must be filed to give the pipeline the status of "abandoned." These regulations are not always closely followed and say nothing of cleaning up the decrepit pipe.

In 2014, an out of service LA pipeline spilled somewhere between 1,500 and 3,000 gallons of oil into the street. It took weeks to clean up. Phillips66, the company who owned the pipeline, believed it had no oil remaining in it.

Federal regulators consider an out-of-service pipeline as being an active line that can be (and often is) granted deferrals from having to comply with the normal safety requirements.

Why is the pipeline left in place? It is the cheapest and simplest way to quit using a defectively manufactured pipe.

Simply put, there are very few regulations in place for pipeline abandonment here in the U.S. If Enbridge is allowed to abandon Line 3, a dangerous precedent of abandonment is set for all pipelines.

45% Percentage of existing crude oil pipelines over 50 years old.

If Enbridge really wanted to create jobs for Minnesota, they would pay us to get rid of Line 3.

www.honorearth.org
www.stopline3.org