



NEWS RELEASE



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Contact: Elizabeth Ward, Sierra Club 608-445-4489
Peter Anderson, 350 Madison, 608-444-2817
Mary Beth Elliott, 350 Madison, 608-695-7501
Laura Hanson Schlachter, 350 Madison, 937-838-4558

Local Environmental Groups Applaud Dane County Zoning Decision on Enbridge Permit

MADISON: Local environmental groups were encouraged yesterday when the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee voted Tuesday to analyze the risks and need for insurance for the Enbridge Line 61 Waterloo/Marshall pump station. The vote required Dane County secure additional input from insurance experts before making a final decision on the Conditional Use Permit.

Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator of the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter stated, "We are proud that the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee was not intimidated by Enbridge's threats and instead decided to be diligent about protecting Dane County's critical water and land."

Peter Anderson of 350 Madison Climate Action Team said, "We look forward to participating in the process going forward. As we have said from the beginning, Dane County taxpayers need to be protected from possible future spills of tar sands and diluents on the land and waterways of our county."

Lori Van Caster, a resident in Marshall, located near the pumping station said, "It is fantastic that the Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee will require analysis from an insurance expert. That way we will know the risks of a potential spill and receive the information the DNR didn't assess."

Mary Beth Elliott of 350 Madison said, "The Dane County Zoning and Land Regulation Committee obviously listened to the concerns we expressed at the November public hearing. We spoke about the Kalamazoo spill disaster in 2010 in which an Enbridge pipeline spilled over 1 million gallons of tar sands oil into waterways near Marshall Michigan. A National Resources Defense Council report stated that, on average, crude oil spills cost \$2000 per barrel for cleanup, whereas, for the Kalamazoo tar sands spill, the cost of cleanup was \$29,000 per barrel. It is critical that insurance coverage is adequate to meet such a need in the future."

The zoning board also raised serious questions about the earthen containment reservoir Enbridge proposes to build, designed hold up to 2.1 million gallons of tar sands oil in the event of a spill. Concerns centered around the dangerous carcinogens that would be released if such an open-air pit were allowed to off-gas into the surrounding air. "An earthen berm to contain the tar sands, but nothing to account for the gasses which would certainly be emitted? That's like building a wall against an invading army, and forgetting they have a formidable air force," said Carl Whiting of WISE Alliance, referring to the sort of heavy fumes which made hundreds sick after the Kalamazoo spill.

The County will look into the process and potential of hiring an insurance expert and will reconvene with this information at the February 10 meeting.

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Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.

Madison 350 is the local branch of 350.org, an international grassroots organization that is mobilizing a global climate movement. 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO2 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. To get there, we need a different kind of ppm - a "people powered movement."