

Resolution No. 26-09/14
**Supporting a Full Environmental Impact Statement for Enbridge Energy Line 61
Expansion and Needed Public Input**

Moved/Sponsored by: Land Conservation Committee

WHEREAS, Enbridge Energy maintains petroleum pipelines running from Superior, Wisconsin to Northern Illinois with two lines running through western Walworth County and two lines running through eastern Rock County near the Walworth-Rock County border; and,

WHEREAS, Enbridge Energy seeks to expand Pipeline 61 in Rock County from a current initial flow rate of 400,000 barrels of petroleum product per day to a proposed 1.2 million barrels per day and increased pipeline pressure to over 1,200 pounds per square inch. The proposed daily volume to be transported in this pipeline is expected to be approximately 50% greater than the controversial proposed "Keystone" pipeline in the Dakotas and Nebraska; and,

WHEREAS, the material to be transported in this pipeline is tar sand oil, which may be more corrosive than other oils and may lead to more pipeline ruptures and spills. Tar sands oil is denser than traditional oil and must be mixed with toxic materials known as diluent to reduce viscosity for tar sand oil to flow effectively; and,

WHEREAS, Enbridge Energy may also run tar sands oil through the other pipelines, including the Walworth County pipelines, and may also use Walworth County lines to return the toxic diluent removed in refining tar sands oils for reuse for mixing with tar sands oil; and,

WHEREAS, Enbridge Energy has a record of pipeline related incidents, which include the accident at Grand Marsh here in Wisconsin, as well as a large tar sand oil spill on Michigan's Kalamazoo River. The Kalamazoo River spill resulted from a leak in a pipe with a far lower flow rate than the flow rate proposed for Pipeline 61 running adjacent to Walworth County; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has conducted hearings and/or issued permits relating to air issues at Enbridge's Superior facilities, environmental impacts of the physical installation of pipelines, and for construction of compressor stations, but there has not been an environmental impact statement done with respect to risks to the public, first responders and to the environment associated with the operation of Enbridge's Wisconsin pipelines with tar sands oil and diluent at the proposed pressures; and,

WHEREAS, It is important to have further public input as well as a full environmental impact statement before approving this expanded and unprecedented use, especially where pipeline failure could cause a threat to the health and safety of Walworth County residents and first responders as well as economic damage to tourism and agriculture in Walworth County and neighboring communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Walworth County Board urges the State Department of Transportation and the Department of Natural Resources to undertake a full environmental impact statement and engineering study and further public hearings to provide citizens with full information about the nature and associated risks of the petroleum products

1 being transported through Wisconsin before authorizing Enbridge Energy to move tar sands oil
2 and diluent at high pressure through Wisconsin in its pipelines.
3

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the County Clerk forward this Resolution to the Governor,
5 Department of Natural Resources Secretary, Department of Transportation Secretary and all
6 other counties along the proposed pipeline path.
7
8
9

10 _____
11 Nancy Russell
12 County Board Chair

Kimberly S. Bushey
County Clerk

13 County Board Meeting Date: October 14, 2014
14

15 Action Required: Majority Vote X Two-thirds Vote _____ Other _____
16

Policy and Fiscal Note is attached.

Reviewed and approved pursuant to Section 2-91 of the Walworth County Code of Ordinances:

David A. Bretl 9/19/14
Date
County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

Nicole Andersen 9/19/14
Date
Deputy County Administrator - Finance

If unsigned, exceptions shall be so noted by the County Administrator.

Policy and Fiscal Note
Resolution No. 26-09/14

- I. **Title:** Supporting a Full Environmental Statement for Enbridge Energy Line 61 Expansion and Needed Public Input
- II. **Purpose and Policy Impact Statement:** The purpose of this resolution is to encourage and support a full environmental impact statement, engineering study and further public hearings for Enbridge Energy Line 61 expansion and the need for public input.
- III. **Budget and Fiscal Impact:** Passage of this Resolution will have no fiscal impact on the county budget.
- IV. **Referred to the following standing committees for consideration and date of referral:**

Committee: Land Conservation Committee Meeting Date: September 15, 2014

Vote: 4 - 1

County Board Meeting Date: October 14, 2014

Policy and fiscal note has been reviewed and approved as an accurate statement of the probable policy and fiscal impacts associated with passage of the attached resolution.




David A. Bretl Date
 County Administrator/Corporation Counsel

21 And 9/19/14
Nicole Andersen Date
Deputy County Administrator – Finance

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