

SOME SURPRISE FINDINGS ABOUT ENBRIDGE'S LINE 3 PIPELINE and Protecting the Qu'Appelle Watershed

Note: At its January 11, 2017 meeting the QVEA created a Line 3 Research Working Group with members Dan Bellegarde, Mike Bray, Lorna Evans, Jim Harding, Florence Pearpoint and Randy Lebell. The members were quite surprised with what they have found and produced an 8-page "QVEA Background and Position Paper on Line 3". This was brought to the Feb. 8, 2017 monthly meeting for further discussion and revision. Below is a shortened, more accessible version, which we strongly encourage you to read. We think you, too, will be surprised by the findings. The larger Position Paper is available upon request.

At our upcoming March 8, 2017, 7 pm monthly meeting we will be considering an Action Plan on Line 3, starting with a leaflet for public education. Please come and assist us with this work. We will also be considering Quill Lakes flooding, and proposed drainage regulations (Bill 44), which also urgently need our attention.

1. Lack of Transparency

Why do we know so little about Enbridge's Line-3 pipeline? It will daily transport nearly **one million barrels** of toxic bitumen from Alberta's tar-sands, across SK's vulnerable and shrinking prairie grasslands, on route to U.S refineries. It will crisscross fourteen of our watercourses, including our major rivers – tunneling under the South Saskatchewan River, south of Outlook, and **under the Qu'Appelle River, near Bethune.**

The *Dakota Access pipeline* at Standing Rock which is partly owned by Enbridge has constantly been in the news, due to ongoing protests. Before that there was great public attention on Enbridge's *Northern Gateway Pipeline*, proposed to go from Alberta's tar-sands to the B.C. coast. This was turned down by the federal Cabinet due to environmental risks and First Nations opposition.

Yet, Line-3 will **carry nearly twice as much toxic bitumen** across the prairies and down through the United States to the Gulf of Mexico. Line-3 is **even larger than the much higher-profile, Keystone XL Pipeline**, which was blocked under the Obama presidency and has now been approved by Trump. Line 3's continental route will not only export toxic bitumen but it will export huge environmental risks to our U.S. neighbours.

ENBRIDGE'S LINE-3 PIPELINE WILL CARRY UP TO 915,000 BARRELS OF TOXIC BITUMEN OIL PER DAY (bo/d), NEARLY TWICE WHAT WAS TO GO THROUGH NORTHERN GATEWAY PIPELINE (525,000 bo/d).

2. Not a Replacement Pipeline

Line-3 has been marketed as a “replacement” pipeline, which is why it didn’t require a new permit and thereby receive more public attention.¹ **But it is not a replacement; it will take a completely new route around Regina and through Minnesota. Its capacity will nearly double, and be greater than even Keystone XL. It has gone forward under the radar.**

3. Pipelines not Safe

Premier Wall regularly states that pipelines are “*the safest way*” to transport tar sand oil. This claim **isn’t even a half-truth**. Pipeline ruptures contaminate large tracts of land and threaten major waterways, while railcars carry relatively small volumes of oil and have smaller and fewer spills. Furthermore, **the oil that created the firestorm of deaths at Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, wasn’t tar sand bitumen, but lighter, much more flammable crude oil from the Bakken reserves**. And that horrific accident had much to do with Harper government cutting back on railway safety.

The thick tar sand bitumen is diluted with compounds like naphtha and the carcinogen benzene to create dilbit so it will flow along the pressurized pipelines. This is what makes it so volatile and doubly toxic. **If the toxic bitumen spills, its heavier composition makes it even harder to contain and to clean up.**

4. Saskatchewan’s Poor Safety Record

Husky Oil’s 250,000 litre oil spill into the North Saskatchewan River in 2016 made us all more aware of the threat that pipelines present to our waterways and to our drinking water. In 2012 the Auditor had already noted that the province “*did not have effective processes to ensure full compliance*” with pipeline legislation. It stated, “*There are requirements under this legislation that are not being acted upon. Failure to regulate pipelines effectively could harm people or the environment.*” In 2014 it reported that the province still hadn’t implemented the most vital recommendations. It still hasn’t.

Pipeline spills in SK are much more commonplace than we are led to believe. And there have already been huge spills. The old Line-3 had a 3,180,000 litre spill near Pilot Butte in 1999. This was similar in scale to the recent Enbridge spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan. **This pipeline carried crude and heavy oil from SK and Alberta**. Oil spills are ongoing. The latest major SK spill occurred on January 20th, 2017 on Ocean Man First Nations. This 200,000 litre spill involved a Tundra Energy pipeline, which **has no record of ever being inspected**. A few weeks later, Tundra Energy had yet another oil spill near Storthoaks, southeast of Regina. These are just the tip of the iceberg.

17% OF THE 8,000 REPORTED INDUSTRIAL SPILLS IN SASKATCHEWAN SINCE 2006 WERE BY THE PROVINCE’S BIGGEST OIL PRODUCER, HUSKY OIL. MANY OIL SPILLS GO UNREPORTED.

5. Deception About Paris Agreement

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions linked Line-3 are going to be massive. The upstream emissions from extracting the bitumen will be from 19 to 26 mega-tonnes

¹ The NEB hearings were not only discredited but they were not widely advertised or attended across SK.

(MT) per year for the 50-year lifespan of the pipeline. Alberta's Premier Notley tells us that even with new bitumen pipelines, emissions can be kept below its 100 MT cap; the federal government reassures us that it can still meet its commitments under the Paris Accord.

But, these calculations don't include all the carbon that will go into the atmosphere from refining and burning the exported tar sand oil. **And it is the exported emissions that will have the greatest impact on the atmosphere and climate.** Now we find that under the Paris Accord oil-exporting countries, like Canada, do not even have to account for these exported emissions. And these are steadily rising. This smoke and mirror politics is unacceptable; it is **politically-deceptive and environmentally-irresponsible.**

NET "EXPORTED EMISSIONS" FROM OIL PRODUCED IN CANADA HAVE RISEN FIVE-FOLD SINCE 2000. See, *Behind the Numbers*, Jan. 2017.

6. Endorsing the Treaty Alliance

Saskatchewan citizens were never given the opportunity to scrutinize or approve Line 3. **It wasn't debated in our last provincial election;** there was never a social license to proceed. There was never consent from indigenous communities.

Yet the new federal government has endorsed the UN Declaration of Indigenous Rights, which affirms "*free, prior and informed consent*" for mega-resource projects. Truth and Reconciliation requires a new, post-colonial relationship. Enbridge's behind-the-scene "engagement agreements" with indigenous communities **do not meet the required standard of consent.**

A Treaty Alliance, already with 120 supporting Chiefs, has therefore formed to ban bitumen-carrying pipelines from traditional territories in Canada and the U.S. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is now in the courts to stop Line-3 from going across its traditional lands. We await additional information about Line 3 from Treaty Four First Nations.

The QVEA endorses the Treaty Alliance and will work with indigenous communities to raise awareness about the dangers Line3 presents to the land and water. The QVEA will launch a public awareness campaign so that people know the hitherto hidden facts about Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline.

"WHILE GOVERNMENTS GRANT PERMITS FOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, ONLY COMMUNITIES CAN GRANT PERMISSION".
Liberal 2015 Platform

7. Conversion to Sustainable Energy

Line-3 will perpetuate the fossil-fuel industry, increase carbon emissions and exacerbate the climate crisis. **It will add to the cumulative ecological impact of the industry: with more pipelines, fracking, toxic waste water and tailing ponds.** It will

threaten waterways and grassland habitats. It will waste capital that should be going to convert to a low-carbon economy.

Global investments in renewables have outpaced those in fossil fuels every year since 2010. It is very encouraging that **200 First Nations in Canada** have already made a commitment to clean, renewable energy. This will bring more and better employment to communities.

The banks investing in Enbridge's \$7.5 billion Line 3 project – RBC, BMO, CIBC, Scotiabank and TD – need to get the message that it is time for them to de-vest in fossil fuels. The federal government must stop subsidizing fossil-fuels. The Sask Party government must stop misinforming the public about Line 3. And the NDP Opposition must start talking seriously about the protection of watersheds and the urgent need to convert to a low-carbon economy.

WE NOW MUST ALL STAND UP TO PROTECT HABITATS AND WATERWAYS.

Let your bank, your MLA, MP, Mayor, Reeve or Chief and council know that you want constructive, responsible alternatives to Line 3. Let your neighbours and relatives know too.

You can help us with this public education campaign. Send donations to:

QVEA, Box 506, Fort Qu'Appelle, SK, S0G 1S0.

Contact us at: qvea2016@gmail.com

Upcoming monthly Meeting: every second Wed. of the month at 7 pm, at Fort Qu'Appelle Centre for the Arts