

Sandpiper Pipeline and Line 3 Replacement Projects

Regulatory Acronym Glossary

CEA

Comparative Environmental Analysis

A CEA will describe the project and the human and environmental resources of the project area and review the differences between the proposed route and alternative routes and route segments.

CN

Certificate of Need

As part of its regulatory review process, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) evaluates the need for large energy projects in Minnesota. The MPUC evaluates whether a proposed project is necessary and whether there are better alternatives (including no-build). If they determine the project meets set criteria, they will issue a Certificate of Need. Most linear projects, such as pipelines also require a Route Permit to determine the pipeline route in the state.

EIS

Environmental Impact Statement

A document that describes the impacts on the environment (both natural and physical) as a result of a proposed action or project. An EIS also requires a description of mitigation efforts of the identified impacts, as well as the consideration of alternatives to the proposed action or project. The required timeline for completing an EIS is 280 days.

EIR

Environmental Information Report

An assessment of the existing environment along the Project's preferred route and rejected alternate routes; an analysis of human and environmental impacts that could potentially result from pipeline right-of-way preparation, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project; and a summary of the protection and restoration measures to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize environmental impacts.

MDOC

Minnesota Department of Commerce

This department is the chief regulator for the banking, energy, insurance, real estate, residential construction, securities, and telecommunications industries in Minnesota. MDOC also operates Minnesota's Unclaimed Property.

MEPA

Minnesota Environmental Policy Act

Passed in 1973, MEPA established the Environmental Quality Board (made up of 9 agencies, and five citizen members) to oversee the formal environmental review process for proposed infrastructure projects in the state of Minnesota.

MPUC

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

A consumer protection agency, based in St. Paul, Minnesota, responsible for regulating public utilities. Its five Commissioners are appointed by the governor, and serve staggered six-year terms. In regards to pipelines, the MPUC is responsible for certifying project need and route.

NDPC

North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC

A joint venture between Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P. and Williston Basin Pipe Line LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Marathon Petroleum Corporation. North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC assets, formerly known as Enbridge Pipelines (North Dakota) LLC, are operated by Enbridge.

NDPSC

North Dakota Public Service Commission

A constitutional agency responsible for regulating public utilities, including proposed infrastructure projects, such as crude oil pipelines. Its three Commissioners are elected on a statewide basis, and serve staggered six-year terms.

RP

Route Permit

Prior to large-scale energy infrastructure projects being constructed or modified in Minnesota, companies like Enbridge must be issued a Route Permit by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in order to determine the route of the infrastructure project in the state. The Route Permit includes a description of the proposed project (size, pressure, capacity, and product), right-of-way requirements, a description of the preferred route and considered alternatives, analysis of human and environmental impacts of the project, and proposed restoration and mitigation efforts.

WDNR

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

In Wisconsin, the WDNR is the state agency that provides environmental regulation and permitting requirements for large scale infrastructure projects, such as pipelines, that impact natural resources in the state.

WPSC

Wisconsin Public Service Commission

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is an independent regulatory agency dedicated to serving the public interest. The WPSC is composed of three full-time Commissioners that have oversight of all WPSC staff-related activities.

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