



PEOPLE OVER PIPELINES

2018 Year in Review



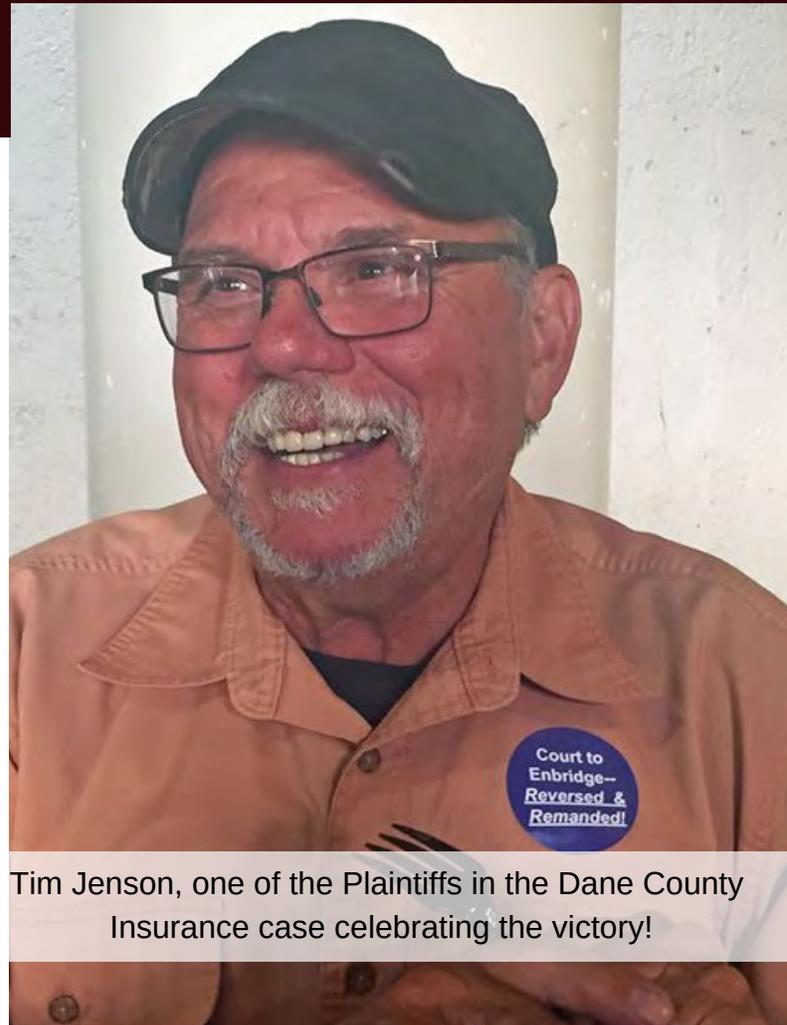
People over Pipelines 2018 Year in Review

What a year! We in the Midwest have been organizing against a potential Line 61-Twin, known as the Line 66 Pipeline. Right after the New Year, landowners met to strategize how they could get their county leaders to speak out about eminent domain abuse. That kicked off an exciting and impressive year - check out all the incredible work and victories that happened in 2018!

JANUARY

Potluck and Planning Workshop: Landowners from Jefferson, Dane, and Rock County met for a potluck and planning meeting where they learned best practices of how to get local leaders to stand up for them. The event was hosted by *80 Feet is Enough!* and the Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance.

Insurance Case Oral Arguments: In 2014 Enbridge was seeking permission to install new pumping stations that would help make Line 61 the largest tar sands pipeline in North America. Dane County, one of the counties the pipeline travels through, put a requirement in its permit that Enbridge had to purchase additional spill insurance--ensuring that Dane County and its residents wouldn't be entirely responsible for paying to clean up an oil spill. In response, in 2015 Enbridge worked behind the scenes to get the legislature to include a provision in the 2015-17 budget prohibiting this insurance requirement. A legal battle ensued and the case made its way to the Court of Appeals. In January, we filled the Court room for the oral arguments of the Appeals Court. The judges held Enbridge's feet to the fire, asking them tough questions.



Tim Jenson, one of the Plaintiffs in the Dane County Insurance case celebrating the victory!

FEBRUARY

Rock County Calls for Eminent Domain Reform: Rock County Wisconsin Safe Energy (WiSE) Alliance wasted on time! County Board Supervisor Wes Davis crafted a resolution against eminent domain abuse. Forty-five people, including Rock County Farm Bureau officials, arrived, put on a "No Eminent Domain for Private Gain," sticker and watched the County Board unanimously approve the

MARCH

Meetings with Legislators: Landowners along the Line 61 corridor in Central Wisconsin held a meeting with Senator Testin and Representative Kulp so that these state legislators could hear about their concerns and see first-hand what is at stake.



Landowner Tim Mumm speaking to the Rock County Public Works Committee

Columbia County Zoning Changes: In early April, the Columbia County Planning and Zoning Committee proposed changing the permitting requirements in a way that would eliminate all local permitting for pipelines. If passed, Columbia County would not have a say when Enbridge wants to build the Line 66 pipeline. It could not ensure that if the pipeline were built, the community and tax payers would be protected from negative impacts. The proposal was delayed and was on the agenda again the first week of May.

In response, dozens of residents called and wrote to their supervisors, and many attended the Planning and Zoning Committee hearings. They spoke about their concerns and called on the committee to strengthen, not weaken the current safeguards. **The calls, letters, and attendance at the meeting worked! The Committee decided to keep the laws the way they are for now.**



Columbia County Planning and Zoning Meeting



WEAT meeting in DeKalb, Illinois

Wisconsin Easement Action Team (WEAT) Tour: At the end of April, WEAT attorney Brian Jorde flew in from Nebraska for a series of meetings with landowners. He and WEAT Board Members, (Keith Merkel, Gwen Stone, and Mark Borchardt) spoke about WEAT and the things landowners should be concerned about during negotiations with Enbridge.

This includes things like: 1.) Liability, like who is responsible if an accident happens? Landowners? Enbridge? The construction workers putting in the pipeline?, 2.) Landowners deserve annual payments instead of a one-time payment, and 3.) How much temporary work space Enbridge will be allowed to take?

Events were held in Ladysmith, Spencer, Nekoosa, Fort Atkinson, Clinton, and DeKalb. It was the first WEAT Tour that included Illinois, and WEAT has formally expanded to allow Illinois landowners to join. Throughout the weekend landowners met each other, recognized similarities in each other's stories, and began discussing ways they can get their stories out there. As with every WEAT tour, more landowners joined WEAT as they understood its benefits, and everyone left with more information about about the impact easement clauses could have on their lives.

LINE 3 RECOMMENDATION

All eyes are on Minnesota as we watch what happens with the Line 3 replacement pipeline that would bring additional oil from the tar sands fields in Canada to Superior, Wisconsin, creating the need for more pipeline capacity through Wisconsin and Illinois. In April, after over two years of hearings, and unprecedented levels of organized opposition, the Administrative Law Judge made her formal recommendation to the regulators who vote on whether to permit the pipeline or not.

Judge Ann O'Reilly recommended that Enbridge be allowed to move ahead with their plans for a Line 3 replacement, though on a different route than the company had originally wanted, and with a number of conditions. The judge's decision also stated that if the new Line 3 is built, it must be located in the same corridor as the existing Line 3, which must be removed to make way for the replacement line. This requirement was included in the recommendation in order to avoid expanding the significant risks of oil pipelines to entirely new parts of Minnesota. The recommendation also reaffirmed the sovereign rights of the tribes to refuse to accept a new pipeline across their lands.

The judge also recommended that Enbridge be required to purchase clean-up insurance, and that Enbridge be fully liable for clean-up, echoing the requirements placed on Enbridge by Dane County in 2015. Though this recommendation was not everything we pushed for, it shows how strong our collective voices were in supporting opposition to the new route, and how important Dane County's leadership in requiring spill insurance was, as we saw Minnesota regulators follow suit.

MAY

VICTORY in the Dane County Insurance Case:

The Court of Appeals released their final decision on the Dane County insurance case from 2015, based on the oral arguments in February. On May 24, the Court unanimously ruled with the landowners and the county saying that they have a right to know they will be protected if/when a spill occurs. The Appeals Court decision sends the case back to the Zoning Committee for further proceedings.

New Rusk County WiSE Group! Since we learned of Enbridge's plans for a new pipeline, landowners, environmentalists, and other concerned community members have been coming together to create WiSE groups/local coalitions or partner groups. In May, the Rusk County WiSE group was formed for those working against a new pipeline in Rusk County and Chippewa County.

Rock County WiSE Alliance sponsored a "Hands Across the Sands" event on the banks of the Rock River, as part of a yearly global silent call for an end to water pollution. 70 people attended and the photo of us holding hands on the riverbank was uploaded to the HATS website. It was a festive occasion, with kites, banners, lawn signs, the debut of a new rock 'n roll anthem called "Don't Risk the Rock," and a Native American line dance with singing and drumming. On May 18 the Janesville Gazette published an Op-Ed by WiSE chapter member Aaron Aegerter, pointing out that \$42 million in public and private funds for the downtown and riverfront renovation would be endangered by a new tar sands pipeline under the river.



Hands Across the Sands event with
"Don't Risk the Rock" banner

JUNE

Yard Signs Launch: in order to raise awareness about Line 66 and the eminent domain abuse that could go along with it, we ordered 250 yard signs to be dispersed through Wisconsin and Illinois. Yard signs were distributed and posted, raising awareness and generating conversations about the issue and our concerns.

Line 3 Decision: the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) made their decision on the Line 3 Pipeline. Unfortunately, the PUC basically granted Enbridge everything they wanted: they get to build their new, bigger pipeline, they get to do it in their new, destructive corridor, and they don't have to clean up the old pipeline. Groups across Wisconsin and Illinois deplored the decision and spoke out, calling on leaders in Wisconsin to step in and ensure the unnecessary pipeline doesn't move forward.



JULY

Every seat was taken at the
Jefferson County Board Meeting



Jefferson County resolution: On July 10, Jefferson County passed a resolution calling on the Wisconsin legislature to review its eminent domain laws and disallow any use of eminent domain that wouldn't have been allowed prior to 2015 (when the laws were changed). The resolution passed 23-4 after six people eloquently spoke, including a woman who is under the threat of eminent domain by Enbridge. She delivered 125 signatures in support of eminent domain reform. There was standing room only with dozens of landowners and concerned citizens present, leading the board to take stronger action than it previously had.

Sawyer County Forum: WiSE members attended a candidates forum sponsored by the Sawyer County Democrats, asked candidates what they knew about the pipeline and eminent domain reform, and explained our concerns. Our yards signs were posted prominently, giving yet more evidence that area folks oppose Line 66 and eminent domain for private gain.

AUGUST

Clark County UNANIMOUSLY passed resolution: On August 16, Clark County became the fifth county in the state to pass a resolution calling on the state legislature to reform our eminent domain laws and prohibit the use of eminent domain for private profit for oil pipelines. Landowners first attended an Executive Committee meeting, where they received a warm welcome and unanimous approval of their resolution. Days later over two dozen landowners and supporters attended the full county board meeting and spoke about their concerns, resulting in unanimous passage

Line 3 Call-In Day: Dozens of people from Wisconsin and Illinois participated in a 'Downstream' call-in day to Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton's office to thank him for his work opposing Line 3 so far, and to ask him to do everything in his power to stop Line 3 from harming communities not only in Minnesota, but downstream across Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. These call-in days were part of a larger strategy to escalate the pressure on Governor Dayton ahead of the remaining permit processes and the opportunity to appeal the Public Utilities Commission decision.



Julian Kulinski speaking at the Clark County Executive Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER

Lorene Reisner speaking at the Ladysmith Video Premiere and Forum



Ladysmith Panel: the newly formed Rusk County WiSE hosted a forum to describe concerns around the potential new Line 66 pipeline-- mostly centered on the potential for eminent domain abuse and the local impacts of a spill. The event kicked off with a viewing of one of the videos from the new series, featuring Jule and Lorene Reisner of Ladysmith telling their story. Lorene then spoke about how through countless hours of work they managed to protect their trees, but emphasized that they want to be part of an organization this time, to achieve strength through numbers. Then Keith Merkel of *80 Feet is Enough!* told the history of the legalization of eminent domain for private gain and explained his fear that Enbridge could use eminent domain to take his land. Winona LaDuke, Paul DeMain, and Paul Blackburn (founder, chair, and attorney, respectively) of Honor the Earth, called into the meeting to give an update about the their plans moving forward in Minnesota. The event concluded with scientist, canoer, author, and river enthusiast, Jim Kurz, describing what we know about tar sands oil spills, and what they could do to area rivers.

Boone County Group: In 2018, Save Our Illinois Land (SOIL) embarked on a plan to create local coalitions/groups in each of the counties the Line 61 corridor passes in Illinois. After many conversations and informational meetings, the first was formed in Boone County!

The WiSE Alliance and *80 Feet is Enough!* launched a series of short videos that feature Wisconsin landowners along the Line 61 corridor. The series shows people working to save their homes and property from the proposed new Enbridge tar sands pipeline, known as Line 66. The twelve short videos in the series are filled with these stories – from previous damage done by Enbridge to the potential destruction of homes, land, and water resources. Viewers see what these families cherish and what they stand to lose.



**PEOPLE OVER PIPELINES:
WISCONSIN FAMILIES
WORKING TO PROTECT
OUR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES**

New Video Series



**12
VIDEOS**

12 different videos showed individuals and families across the pipeline path and their stories and fears.

**29,000
VIEWS**

On Facebook and YouTube, the video series was viewed 29,000 times!

**550
SHARES**

550 people shared the videos on Facebook with their friends!

**120
EVENT VIEWS**

120 people viewed the videos at events that took place throughout Wisconsin and Illinois

OCTOBER

Little Pink House showing in Portage: Columbia County WiSE hosted a showing of *Little Pink House*, a new feature film about the landmark Supreme Court case that led to the ability for companies to use eminent domain for their profit. Following the film, a panel of landowners spoke about what it's like to live under the threat of eminent domain for an oil pipeline, and one of the landowner videos was also featured.



DECEMBER

Great ending to a great year!



Lorene Reisner speaking at the Rusk County Board Meeting

Rusk County Resolution: On Tuesday, December 18, the Rusk County Board UNANIMOUSLY passed the resolution opposing eminent domain for private gain with 20 people in attendance and six eloquent speakers from around the area. Speakers testified about their experiences with Enbridge, their concerns about what they could lose, and the unfairness of a private company taking their land without their consent.

Columbia County Resolution: The next day, the Columbia County Board passed the same resolution! Following several moving speeches and standing room only, Supervisor Pufahl (who moved for approval) stated, "We can sit on our hands and not do anything, or we can vote on this and push the state and the federal government." Ultimately, the resolution passed 20 – 5.

Multiple appeals to the MN PUC's decision to approve Line 3: By Dec. 21, the following groups had filed legal appeals against the MN Public Utilities Commission's approval of a permit for a replacement Line 3 along Enbridge's new route. A joint appeal by Honor the Earth, White Lake Band, and Red Lake Band; Sierra Club; Friends of the Headwaters; Youth Climate Intervenors; and most surprisingly, the MN Department of Commerce.

Little Pink House showing in Belvidere (Boone County, IL): on Dec. 11 there was a free showing of *Little Pink House* (and a free dinner) for an audience of landowners, past and new county board members, and concerned citizens. This new feature film based on the true story of Suzette Kelo, who took her case to the U.S. Supreme Court, was followed by a discussion.

Little Pink House showing in Medford (Taylor County, WI): In order to make people aware of the need to reform eminent domain and the important resolution that the Clark County Board had recently passed, the Tri-County WiSE group hosted a showing of the *Little Pink House* in Medford. Attendees watched the excellent movie and then discussed what could be done in Taylor County. Clark County Supervisor Bryce Luchterhand spoke about why he was moved to take action there.

DeKalb SOIL Group kicks off: The second county-based SOIL chapter was formed in Illinois at the end of the year with a kick-off meeting in DeKalb. Plans were made to do a showing of *Little Pink House*, and to organize for a county board resolution against eminent domain for private gain.

