



PRESS RELEASE

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MINNESOTA AGENCY FINDS THAT ENBRIDGE LIED: ITS INSURANCE POLICIES DO NOT ACTUALLY COVER OIL SPILLS

***Climate Activists Demand That Enbridge CEO Mark Maki Release Cleanup Insurance Documents:
“Mr. Maki, Tear Down This Wall of Secrecy”***

The Minnesota Department of Commerce has concluded that Enbridge pipeline company’s insurance policies “do not cover damages from crude oil spills to any significant degree, if at all.” Enbridge claims that it has \$940 million in cleanup insurance but has kept its policies secret from Wisconsin officials, arguing that they are trade secrets.

In response, 350 Madison spokesperson Peter Anderson stated: “It is unconscionable that Enbridge is pumping more than 37 million gallons of hazardous tar sands oil across Wisconsin each day, including part of Dane County, with imminent plans to add another 15 million gallons, without any cleanup insurance.”

He added, “Enbridge is the pipeline company most in need of insurance because in 2010 it caused the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history in nearby Michigan.” Regulators later compared the company’s inept response to the disaster to “Keystone Kops.”

Mary Beth Elliott, also with 350 Madison, pointed out that “Enbridge continues, over Michigan’s objections, operating a 62-year-old damaged pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac. A major leak would irredeemably pollute two of the Great Lakes, which contain 21% of Earth’s surface fresh water, and would bankrupt the company.”

She continued: “Along with Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, Enbridge is making campaign contributions and using other means to pressure the Wisconsin Legislature and the Wisconsin Supreme Court to override county regulations that would compel the company to purchase cleanup insurance.”

Elliott referenced the fact that Enbridge has kept Wisconsin in the dark about its deficient insurance coverage by falsely claiming that its policies are trade secrets. She called on Enbridge U.S. CEO Mark Maki to “tear down this wall of secrecy.”

Here are other key findings of the Minnesota Department of Commerce in its supplemental filing dated August 31, 2018:

- “[T]he Department concluded that the GL insurance policies of Enbridge and Enbridge Inc. applicable to the Enbridge U.S. Mainline system and, potentially, a new Line 3, ... are deficient because the coverage terms contain significant exclusions related to damages caused by crude oil spills.” [p. 3]
- “In the Department’s assessment, the policies do not cover damages from crude oil spills to any significant degree, if at all.” [p. 3]
- “The Department identifies several provisions that initially appear to provide coverage for damages arising from crude oil spills but, upon a closer reading of the policy, appear to exclude such coverage....The Department’s close inspection of Policy Two, however, found no meaningful coverage for damages caused by crude oil spills.” [p. 4]
- “Thus, coverage terms are insufficient to protect the public interest, and appear designed not to cover most crude oil pipeline spills. Importantly, coverage for damages from crude oil spills from Enbridge’s crude oil transportation operations... appear to be excluded by other policy language, as discussed below.” [pp. 4–5]

The Department’s full set of findings is attached.

Questions? Looking for an interview? Contact: Peter Anderson (608) 231-1100

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The 350 Madison Climate Action Team is dedicated to achieving a just transition to a reduction in atmospheric CO₂ below 350 parts per million (ppm) by working locally in concert with a powerful global movement.