

## **Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement; Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership ("Alberta Clipper Project")**

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
[Public Notice 6443]

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement;  
Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership ("Alberta Clipper Project")

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement;  
Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership ("Alberta Clipper Project").

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**SUMMARY:** The staff of the Department of State has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership ("Enbridge") Alberta Clipper Pipeline Project. Enbridge has applied to the Department of State for a Presidential Permit, pursuant to Executive Order 13337 of April 30, 2004, to construct, connect, operate, and maintain a 36-inch diameter crude oil and liquid hydrocarbon pipeline at the U.S.-Canadian border near Neche, Pembina County, North Dakota, for the purpose of transporting liquid hydrocarbons and other petroleum products between the United States and Canada. Enbridge seeks this authorization in connection with its Alberta Clipper Pipeline Project ("Alberta Clipper Project"), which is designed to transport Canadian crude oil from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin ("WCSB") to existing refinery markets primarily in the Midwest region of the United States.

The Secretary of State is designated and empowered to receive all applications for Presidential Permits, as referred to in Executive Order 13337, as amended, for the construction, operation, or maintenance, at the borders of the United States, of facilities for the exportation or importation of petroleum, petroleum products, coal, or other fuels to or from a foreign country.

Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Department of State decision on the Enbridge proposal, it is important that we receive your comments by January 30, 2009.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Draft EIS was prepared to conform to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed pipeline project. The document also evaluates alternatives to the proposal, including system alternatives and pipeline route alternatives.

The federal cooperating agencies for the development of this EIS

are: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Department of Agriculture—Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Department of Interior--U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, two Indian Bands are acting as cooperating agencies for this EIS: The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Indians. Cooperating agencies either have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to the environmental impacts assessed in connection with the proposal and are involved in the Department's analysis of those environmental impacts.

The Draft EIS addresses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the United States portion of the Alberta Clipper Project. The proposed Alberta Clipper Project would be a new pipeline that would transport crude oil from Enbridge's existing facilities in Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to its existing terminal in Superior, Wisconsin. From there, the liquid hydrocarbons would be transported to Midwestern markets, the eastern United States and Canada, and the Midcontinent and U.S. Gulf markets. Crude oil would be transported to markets in the Midwest via Enbridge's Lakehead System, which is currently being expanded, and potentially through pipelines that may be constructed in the future. The proposed Project would be designed to transport an average crude oil volume of approximately 450,000 bpd.

Overall, the Alberta Clipper Project would consist of a new pipeline and associated facilities in both Canada and the United States. The Draft EIS focuses on the portion of the Alberta Clipper Project in the United States. The primary components of the U.S. portion of the Project would be the new pipeline, 32 new mainline valves, and additional pumping capacity at three existing pump stations. The pipeline would extend approximately 331.8 miles from the U.S./Canada border near Neche, North Dakota through Minnesota and Wisconsin to the existing Enbridge terminal in Superior. A total of 32 mainline valves would be installed at key locations along the alignment.

The Canadian portion of the Alberta Clipper Project received its final Canadian National Energy Board certificate in other approvals by August 2008.

Approximately 82 percent of the proposed pipeline route in the United States (about 270 miles) would be within or adjacent to an existing Enbridge pipeline corridor. The existing corridor houses six pipelines between the U.S./Canada border and Clearbrook, Minnesota (including the Southern Lights LSr Project pipeline which began construction in summer 2008), and four existing pipelines between Clearbrook and Superior. The existing pipelines transport crude oil or petroleum products. A fifth pipeline has been proposed for the corridor between Clearbrook and Superior, and Enbridge proposes to construct it concurrently with the Alberta Clipper Project pipeline.

Three existing Enbridge pump stations along the corridor would be upgraded to accommodate the Alberta Clipper pipeline. The upgrades would include additional pumps and the associated electrical equipment necessary to power the pumps.

If approved, Enbridge proposes to begin construction of the project in the spring of 2009, with an in-service date of early 2010.

As a separate but connected action to the Alberta Clipper Project, Enbridge is proposing to construct, operate, and maintain the Superior Terminal Expansion Project. This project would consist of five new 250,000-barrel storage tanks and associated piping and facilities at the existing Enbridge terminal. The Superior Terminal Expansion Project

is not part of the Presidential Permit Application submitted to Department of State and would be permitted separately from the Alberta Clipper Project.

Construction of the proposed pipeline would generally require a 140-foot-wide construction right-of-way to allow temporary storage of topsoil and spoil and to accommodate safe operation of construction equipment. Enbridge would retain a portion of the construction right-of-way in order to maintain a 75-foot right-of-way from the current outermost pipeline.

The Alberta Clipper Project would not require construction of new pump stations. Mainline valves would be installed along the pipeline to limit the volume of a spill if one were to occur. Enbridge conducted an analysis to determine the most appropriate locations for mainline valves in compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 195. Construction of the pipeline would require establishment of rail unloading sites for delivery of pipe and contractor/pipe storage yards at locations near the construction right-of-way to temporarily store pipe and the contractor's vehicles, equipment, tools, and other construction-related items. Rail unloading areas would be located adjacent to railroad sidings. Enbridge would need to gain access to the construction right-of-way during pipeline installation and the permanent right-of-way during operation. In general, Enbridge would use existing public roads to gain access to the construction right-of-way as much as possible. In areas where public roads are limited, existing privately owned roads may be used for access, provided that Enbridge receives permission from the landowners. If neither public nor privately owned roads are available, Enbridge would construct new access roads that typically would be approximately 10 to 30 feet wide.

U.S. States and counties that could possibly be affected by construction of the proposed pipeline are:

- North Dakota: Pembina;
- Minnesota: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, Clearwater, Beltrami, Hubbard, Cass, Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Carlton; and
- Wisconsin: Douglas.

**Comment Procedures and Public Meetings:** Any person wishing to comment on the Draft EIS may do so. To ensure consideration prior to a Department of State decision on the proposal, it is important that we receive your comments by no later than January 30, 2009.

Options for submitting comments on the Draft EIS are as follows:

- By mail to: Elizabeth Orlando, Alberta Clipper Project Manager, U.S. Department of State, OES/ENV Room 2657, Washington, DC 20520. Please note that Department of State mail can be delayed due to security screening.
- Fax to: (202) 647-5947, attention Elizabeth Orlando.
- E-mail to: [AlbertaClipperEIS@state.gov](mailto:AlbertaClipperEIS@state.gov).
- Comment over the internet via the Alberta Clipper EIS Website: mail to: [www.albertaclipper.state.gov](http://www.albertaclipper.state.gov).

Comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available on-line at <http://www.albertaclipper.state.gov>, including any personal information provided, unless the commenter indicates that the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI, or otherwise protected, through e-mail. If you send a comment by e-mail, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you want to submit an electronic comment, we recommend that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If we cannot read your comment because of technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, we may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic comments should avoid the use of any special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses.

In addition to or in lieu of sending written comments, the Department of State invites you to attend the public meetings in the project area to receive comments on the Draft EIS. A court reporter will be present and will accept comments for the record. Dates and locations for the public meetings are:

- Monday, December 15, 2008, 6 to 9 p.m., Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Best Western, 1060 Highway 32 South, Thief River Falls.
- Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Cass Lake, Minnesota  
Cass Lake Palace Casino, 6280 Upper Cass Lake Frontage Road, NW., Cass Lake.
- Tuesday, December 16, 2008, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Bemidji, Minnesota  
Holiday Inn Express Conference Center, 2422 Ridgeway Avenue, NW., Bemidji.
- Wednesday, December 17, 2008, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Grand Rapids, Minnesota  
Wendego Conference Center, 20108 Golf Crest Road, Grand Rapids.
- Thursday, December 18, 2008, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Carlton, Minnesota  
Black Bear Hotel--Lake Hall Room, 1785 Highway 210, Carlton.
- Thursday, December 18, 2008, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Superior, Wisconsin  
Barkers Island Inn, 300 Marina Drive, Superior.

After comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the Draft EIS, a final EIS will be published and distributed by the Department of State. The final EIS will contain the Department's response to timely comments received on the Draft EIS.

Copies of the Draft EIS have been mailed to interested federal, tribal, state and local agencies; public interest groups; individuals and affected landowners who requested a copy of the Draft EIS or provided comments during the scoping process; libraries; and other stakeholders.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The Enbridge application for a Presidential Permit, including associated maps, the Draft EIS; a list of libraries where the Draft EIS may be reviewed; and other project information is available for viewing and download at the project Website: <http://www.albertaclipper.state.gov>.

For information on the proposed project or the Draft EIS contact: Elizabeth Orlando, OES/ENV Room 2657, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC, 20520, or by telephone (202) 647-4284, or by fax at (202) 647-5947.

Issued in Washington, DC on December 5, 2008.  
Daniel Fantozzi,  
Director, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and  
Scientific Affairs/Office of Environmental Policy, Department of State.