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IOWA CHAPTER

Proposed Pipeline through Iowa Carries Risks

Energy Transfer Partners (also doing business as Dakota Access) announced plans for a proposed oil pipeline that will run diagonally across Iowa, through 18 counties.¹ It will carry crude oil from the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota to Illinois where it will link with another pipeline that will transport the oil to terminals along the Gulf of Mexico.

Although the company plans to seek voluntary easements, they may be asking the Iowa Utilities Board for permission to acquire the easement through eminent domain. The pipeline will require a permanent easement 50 feet wide, with no structures allowed on the easement. An even wider, temporary easement of 100 to 150 feet will be taken during construction.

This is the same oil that was involved in train wrecks in North Dakota in December 2013 and in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, Canada, in July 2013.

Pipelines leak. In March 2013, homeowners in Mayflower, Arkansas, were overwhelmed when oil from a leaky pipeline flowed into their basements, over their lawns and onto their streets.

More recently, on January 17, 2015, a pipeline under the Yellowstone River burst, spilling almost 40,000 gallons of oil into the river. The town of Glendive was required to shutdown its drinking water services because the oil had contaminated its source water. This was the second pipeline spill on the Yellowstone River in four years.

Furthermore, clean-up of spilled oil are costly. The clean-up after the Enbridge oil pipeline spill in Michigan cost over one billion dollars and required over four years of effort.

The Iowa Chapter is concerned about the impacts a tragic accident or a leaky pipeline involving the highly flammable oil will have on Iowa's communities, farms and environment, including

- Polluting Iowa's streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers
- Tragic accidents affecting lives and personal property in the communities along the pipeline
- Destroying Iowa's farmland
- Harming wildlife and sensitive natural areas in its path

Furthermore, once the oil in this pipeline finally reaches the oil terminals in Nederland, Texas, there is absolutely no assurance that the oil and refined products from the oil will remain in the United States for use in this country.

A new pipeline will delay the US transition to clean and renewable energy and more fuel-efficient vehicles. The United States needs to move away from fossil fuel extractions and to energy sources that have less impact on climate change.

¹ Counties in Iowa that will be along the proposed route include Lyon, Sioux, O'Brien, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Boone, Story, Polk, Jasper, Mahaska, Keokuk, Wapello, Jefferson, Van Buren, and Lee.

The Iowa Chapter urges you to join in opposition to the pipeline proposed by Energy Transfer Partners.

Policies to Ensure Pipeline Safety and Protection of the Environment

The Iowa Chapter supports the following policies with respect to the crude oil pipeline:

- A requirement that the pipeline run along road rights-of-way and section lines and not through farms fields. Given the volatility of the Bakken crude oil and the history of leaky pipes, a leaking pipeline will be spotted quicker if it is near a road.
- The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) should require that all applicable permits from other agencies have been acquired by Energy Transfer Partners and Dakota Access before construction begins. Currently no government agency has oversight to ensure that all of the required permits have been applied for and granted. If the proper permits have not been acquired, the IUB should have the authority to stop construction and operation until the permits have been received.
- Every county along the route of the pipeline must have a hazardous clean-up team that is trained and well stocked with supplies and equipment before the pipeline is given permission to begin operating the pipeline.
- Energy Transfer Partners must establish a spills indemnity fund that will be used for:
 - hazardous clean-up teams in each county the pipeline crosses, training for the teams and clean-up equipment and supplies;
 - upgrades to roads that the hazardous clean-up teams and emergency medical teams would use to access spills so that the condition of the roads and bridges would not hinder access to the spills;
 - clean-up and restoration of all land and water bodies affected by a spill;
 - water monitoring each month, downstream from the pipeline crossings;
 - ground water testing each spring along the route;
 - aquifer testing each summer along the route;
 - expenses to decommission the pipeline once it is no longer being used, including paying the landowner for destruction of property during the decommissioning phase as well as restoring the land to its original state.
- Taxing each barrel of oil moving through a hazardous pipeline with the proceeds to supplement the road use tax fund, which could be used on road projects throughout the state.
- Requiring a new permit if oil from a source other than the Bakken oil fields in North Dakota is moved through the pipeline.
- Requiring removal of all pipeline structures within six months should be pipeline cease being used.
- Requiring the pipeline owners to notify all landowners if the pipeline is sold to another entity, if the name of the owner is changed or if the address of the pipeline owner changes.
- Clarifying that the only reason the Iowa Utilities Board should grant the permit for the pipeline to be built, along with the right of eminent domain, is that it is for the public benefit of Iowans.

How you can get involved

- Write letters to the editor in opposition to the pipeline.
- Contact your state legislators and ask them to oppose the pipeline.