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# NEWS RELEASE

Sierra Club John Muir Chapter  
222 South Hamilton St, Madison, WI 53703  
(608) 256-0565 <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

March 31, 2014

Contact: Elizabeth Ward, (608) 256-0565, [Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org](mailto:Elizabeth.ward@sierraclub.org)  
Conservation Programs Coordinator, Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter

## **New Report Reveals High Risks, No Reward of Alberta Clipper Tar Sands Pipeline Expansion**

A new report released today by the Sierra Club and 13 other groups including the National Wildlife Federation and the Indigenous Environmental Network, examines the proposed expansion of the Alberta Clipper tar sands pipeline and concludes that there are significant threats to water, health and climate. The report, [All Risk, No Reward: The Alberta Clipper Tar Sands Pipeline Expansion](#), comes in advance of a rally to stop the Alberta Clipper expansion that will take place before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission public hearing in St. Paul, MN on April 3.

"This report confirms our worst fears about the proposed Alberta Clipper expansion and its link to other pipelines in Wisconsin," said Elizabeth Ward, Conservation Programs Coordinator of the Sierra Club-John Muir Chapter. "This tar sands expansion project threatens Lake Superior, our most critical natural resource and could lead to climate catastrophe."

Canadian pipeline company Enbridge Inc. plans to pump 800,000 barrels per day of one of the planet's dirtiest sources of oil through North Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. This expansion project would almost double the pipeline's current capacity and put it on par with the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Expanding Alberta Clipper's capacity would expose communities and tribes to tar sands' full complement of disturbing climate, safety, and environmental implications; potentially devastate cultural and historical resources; give the landlocked tar sands industry access to ports and enormous new overseas markets; and enable the massive, environmentally devastating tar sands growth planned by the industry.

Tar sands crude can be far more dangerous than conventional crude, especially in water, and the proposed expansion project could put the region's clean water at risk. The tar sands bitumen (or "crude") sinks in water, where standard surface cleanup techniques do not work. The Alberta Clipper route crosses many bodies of water that are critical as drinking water sources and cultural and ecological sites.

Enbridge Inc. has a disgraceful history of spills, including the worst onshore oil spill in U.S. history when a ruptured Enbridge pipeline poured 843,000 gallons of tar sands crude into Michigan's Talmadge Creek and Kalamazoo River. "While Americans continue to reduce their consumption of oil, Wisconsinites are driving less, and the threats to the Great Lakes grow, this pipeline expansion is not worth it," concluded Ward.

The report will be delivered to legislators in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as elected leaders on Capitol Hill.

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*Founded in 1892 by John Muir, the Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out those objectives. The Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter is made up of 15,000 members and supporters working to promote clean energy and protect water resources in Wisconsin.*