

MN350  
2104 Stevens Avenue South,  
Minneapolis, MN, 55404

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
121 7th Place E, Suite 350  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

November 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Wolf,

Our volunteer teams have been greatly motivated these past few weeks by their ability to participate in the public process at the hearings on the proposed Line 3. The issues we care most deeply about, including climate change and Line 3 specifically, become overwhelming when they cannot be engaged at the local level. We have seen impressive turnout at these events and have heard meaningful testimony from folks living both along the proposed route, and from those that live farther away but who are still concerned. That being the case, we were dismayed to learn with only one day's notice that the Public Utilities Commission had canceled the October 26<sup>th</sup> public hearing in St. Cloud, Minnesota. As of this writing, there has been no commitment to schedule a replacement for that hearing date.

It is understood that this cancellation was proposed by the St. Cloud Convention Center. We would have expected that the Commission's response to the event center would be to promptly seek a new venue; not to disband the final hearing and deny opportunity to the Minnesotans who had wanted to speak. It is significant that this would have been the final hearing in the schedule because there were numerous hearings in other regions that ran out of time with people still waiting to testify. There will naturally be people who even skipped the earlier hearings that they *in theory* could have attended, because the St. Cloud one was the most accessible to them. They now have no fallback locations they can attend.

While everyone will have other ways to submit their testimony or comment, the in-person hearing is a unique and important part of the process. It is the only method in which the public may face Enbridge, as well as their peers, and fellow citizens of differing opinions. It is the only method where a member of the public could receive a direct answer to their questions for Enbridge and the DOC. It is so rare to see regular people sit and listen to each other for hours and hours on matters about which they disagree. The hearings bring humanity to a difficult issue and allow for opinions to be changed, or for knowledge to be gained, by just listening to other Minnesotans.

We insist that the Commission staff uphold public process and find a St. Cloud venue to host the final public hearing before the November 22<sup>nd</sup> comment period deadline. Because Line 3 will have an impact on every Minnesotan, each one deserves to have their opinion heard on the matter. It is the responsibility of the Commission staff to engage any Minnesotan who wishes to participate in this process.

Sincerely,  
Sara Suppan  
Volunteer  
On behalf of MN350