

Public Hearing Record Summary
Proposed Southern Access Expansion – Stage 1
September 2006

These hearings were public informational hearings, where the public could learn more about the proposed project and submit written or oral comments about the project and any Department determinations associated with the project.

All hearings were scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. and end at 8 p.m. An open-house session began at 5:15 each evening.

Appearance and comment forms were offered to everyone in attendance, to make an oral statement or to submit a written comment.

Hearings began in an open house format. Application materials and maps of the proposed project were available for public viewing.

The oral comment portion of these hearings began with a DNR statement regarding general information on the project, the format of public comments, the development, release and public review of an environmental assessment, and the release of the permits with an appeal mechanism. Each oral comment session was closed with an invitation for attendees to continue their informal discussions.

Four to five DNR OE staff, three Enbridge representatives, and one Enbridge consultant were available to answer questions before and after each evening's oral comment session.

Hearing Schedule and Comment Summary

- Tuesday, September 19, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Hayward Veterans' Community Center, 10534 S. Main St., Hayward WI.

Two members of the public and a GLFWIC representative attended. No oral or written comments were presented. Media included Channel 10 in Duluth (Brady Smith). Information discussion centered on pipeline safety issues, prompted by ongoing publicity over recent pipeline spills in the Alaskan Arctic.

- Wednesday, September 20, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the University of Wisconsin - Marshfield/Wood County (in The Commons), 2000 W. 5th Street, Marshfield, WI.

Four members of the public attended. No oral or written comments were presented. Media included Channel 9 in Wausau, the Marshfield newspaper, and one radio station. A major issue discussed informally was pipeline safety related to concerns about Koch Pipeline Company problems. Media questions also included a question about pipeline spills prevention.

- Thursday, September 21, 2004, at 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Best Western Hotel, Portage, WI. (From Interstate 39 north, take Exit 92 (Highway 51 south) to County Highway CX, south.

Seven members of the public attended, including two representatives of Midwest Environmental Advocates. No oral or written comments were presented. No media attended. The major issues were inadequate construction monitoring and post-construction soil compaction, as well as damage to wetlands and a stream. For the applicant issues, DNR staff helped generate discussion between Enbridge staff and attending landowners. One informal comment suggested that DNR require the applicant to send a notice of such hearings to each landowner.

Post-Hearing

The Marshfield news reporter called Tuesday, Sept. 26 to say she had been contacted by two landowners who had read her article on the hearings, and said they had not heard any notice about the hearing. She wanted to know if I had heard from anyone else complaining about not learning about the hearings before they occurred. I said I had not, but that DNR staff had been discussing ways to be sure all affected property owners would be notified by the applicant, or by some other means.

Written Comments

10/02/2006 - Thomas Ganfield (no address). 1. Use dry crossings on all ORW/ERW, or at least wet-cross at non-critical times for aquatic life. 2. Require applicant to monitor for and remove non-native plant species from wetland areas that currently are relatively free from non-native invasives.

Last edited 10/02/2006