

## DNR gives Enbridge permit OK

By Lydia Statz, With AP reports | Posted: Friday, June 13, 2014 9:03 am

SUPERIOR — The state Department of Natural Resources on Thursday approved an air construction permit for expanding storage tank capacity at Enbridge Energy's Superior terminal.

The company wants to build three new above-ground storage tanks at the terminal, WDIO-TV in Duluth, Minn. reported. The terminal currently has 40 above-ground storage tanks. Two other new tanks, which already received regulatory approval, are scheduled to be in service by the middle of the year.

The Wisconsin agency approved the permit after receiving more than 200 written comments and about 3,400 emails from the public. However, most concerned Enbridge's Line 61 pipeline expansion project, which is not part of the air permit review, the agency said.

Enbridge Energies Line 61, which runs through Wisconsin from Superior to northern Illinois, currently carries approximately 400,000 barrels of Canadian tar sands oil per day. The pipeline crosses into Jefferson County near Waterloo and runs through the southwestern corner of the county, crossing beneath the Rock River south of Fort Atkinson and just north of Lake Koshkonong. It was constructed in 2007 and carries tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada.

The company plans to increase the pipeline's capacity up to 1.2 million barrels per day by 2015 through construction of several additional pumping stations along the line, including a new one outside of Waterloo in Dane County.

A resolution passed May 13 by the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors opposed the DNR permit for the Superior project as a way to register the county's voice during the public comment portion of the procedure. Supervisor Walt Christiansen, who brought forth the proposal, urged the DNR to reject the company's permit, undertake a full environmental assessment of the pipeline and conduct a public hearing or public information session in Jefferson County before authorizing Enbridge to increase the fluid pressure flowing through the pipeline.

Many members of the public spoke before the county board, saying that they feared the increased pressure and the possibility of a spill or leak affecting nearby property owners and waterways.

Enbridge and the DNR each responded to the passed resolution, and said that while they would take the county's response and all public comments into consideration, the permit likely would be approved.

No additional approvals are necessary for the pipeline expansion project closer to Jefferson County, and the construction of a new pumping station in Waterloo, one of several along the line that will allow tar sands oil to move at a higher volume along the line, is set to begin in July.