

# **A GIANT STEP BACKWARD**

**Expanding the Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline would create carbon pollution that far outweighs any gains Minnesota plans to make on climate change. Here are the numbers.**



# OUR CLIMATE CAN'T AFFORD LINE 3

Enbridge Energy calls the proposed Line 3 project a “replacement” for its crude oil pipeline. But the new Line 3, to be rerouted through Minnesota’s cleanest waters, would double the capacity of the old pipeline. This expansion would wipe out any gains our state plans to make to reverse climate change, setting us back further in the transition away from burning fossil fuels.

Compare the annual greenhouse gas emissions of the existing Line 3 to those of the proposed massive expansion:

## Existing Line 3

80.5 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent weight of carbon dioxide)<sup>[1]</sup>

## Greenhouse gas added by Line 3 expansion

193 million tons CO<sub>2</sub><sup>[1]</sup>

## New Line 3 total

273.5 million tons CO<sub>2</sub><sup>[1]</sup>

## Expanding Line 3 would add more greenhouse gas to the atmosphere annually than Minnesota emitted in 2016.

According to the pipeline project’s Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Line 3 expansion would add 193 million tons of greenhouse gases each year during the project’s lifetime, from oil extraction to burning, as measured in equivalent weight of carbon dioxide.<sup>[1]</sup> Minnesota greenhouse gas emissions were 154 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> in 2016, according to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Expanding Line 3 would add five times as much greenhouse gas annually as Minnesota electricity production created in 2016.

Minnesota greenhouse gas emissions from electricity totalled 40.1 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> that year, according to the MPCA.<sup>[3]</sup> Under the “One Minnesota Path to Clean Energy” plan proposed by Gov. Tim Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan,

electric utilities would be required to zero out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.<sup>[4]</sup> But expanding Line 3 would vastly outweigh the impact of this achievement.<sup>[1]</sup>

Expanding Line 3 would have the equivalent impact of adding

**38 million** vehicles to our roads.

## Expanding Line 3 would add five times as much greenhouse gas annually as Minnesota transportation produced in 2016.

Minnesota greenhouse gas emissions from transportation totalled 40.2 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> that year, according to the MPCA.<sup>[5]</sup> Gov. Walz has directed the agency to implement clean car standards that would require manufacturers to deliver vehicles producing less greenhouse gas, and more vehicles producing little or no greenhouse gas emissions at the tailpipe.<sup>[6]</sup> But expanding Line 3 would negate the impact of these rules.<sup>[1]</sup>

## In 2050, an expanded Line 3 would add five times as much greenhouse gas as Minnesota expects to emit in total that year.

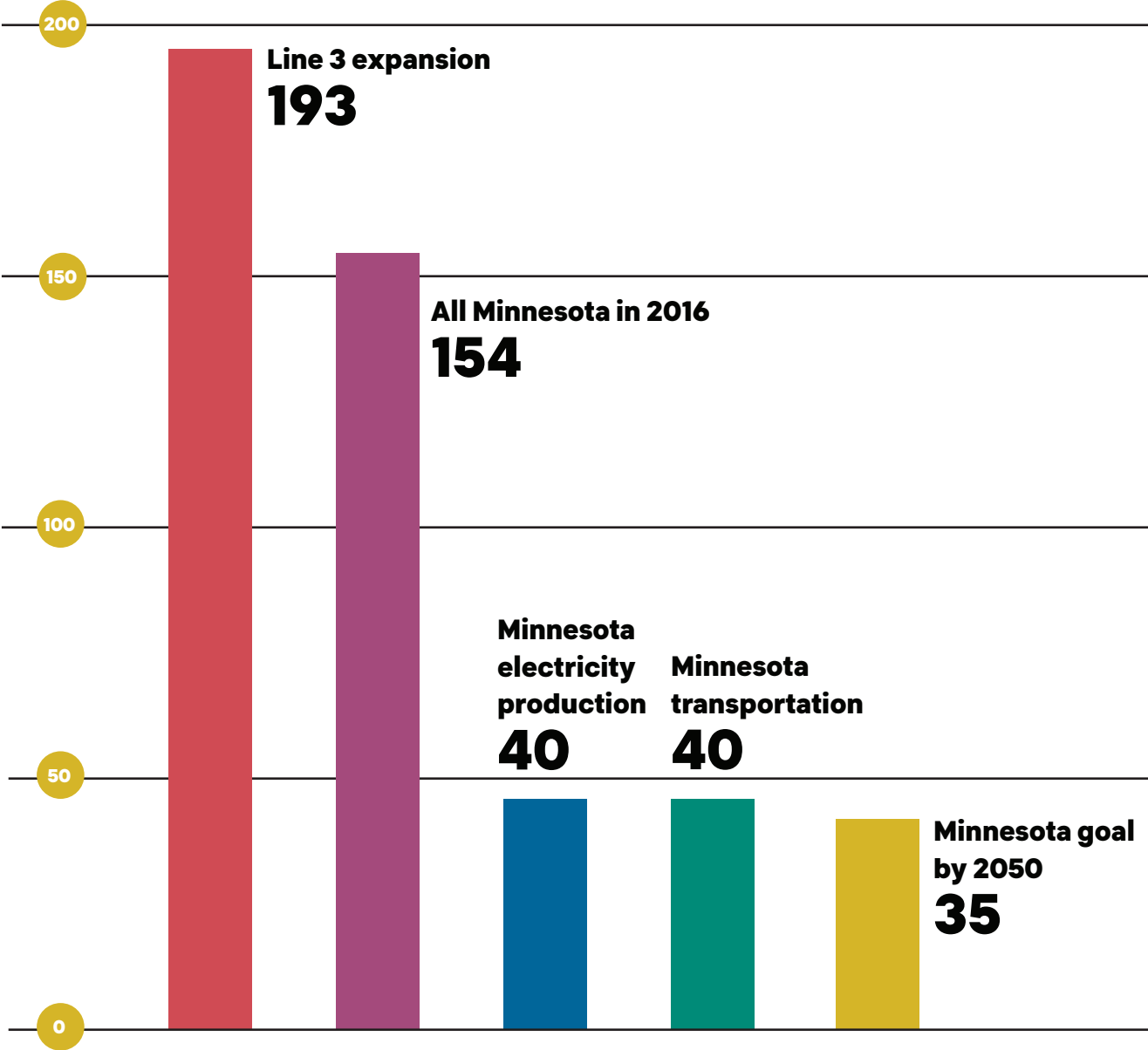
To meet the requirements of our state’s Next Generation Energy Act and our commitment to the United States Climate Alliance, Minnesota plans to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions to less than 35 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050.<sup>[7]</sup> But expanding Line 3 would cancel out those gains.<sup>[1]</sup> The state may go even further to meet the “net zero” emissions goal recommended by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.<sup>[8]</sup>

Expanding Line 3 would have the equivalent impact of adding

**50** new coal-fired power plants.

# Greenhouse gas emissions

In million tons per year of equivalent weight in carbon dioxide.



**Expanding Line 3 would have the equivalent impact of adding 50 new coal-fired power plants.** An average coal plant in the United States emits an estimated 3.5 to 4.29 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.<sup>[9]</sup>  
[10] [11]

**Expanding Line 3 would have the equivalent impact of adding 38 million vehicles to our roads.** According to the EPA, the average passenger vehicle emits 5.10 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.<sup>[12]</sup>

Thirty-eight million vehicles would be five times the 7.4 million currently registered in Minnesota.<sup>[13]</sup>

**Sequestering greenhouse gases from Line 3 would require an additional 227 million acres of forests.** The EPA estimates that 0.85 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> are sequestered annually by one acre of average U.S. forest.<sup>[14] [15]</sup> Offsetting the impact of Line 3 on the climate would require a 30% increase in U.S. forests.

MN350



Not to mention devastating effects to the

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT  
TREATY RIGHTS  
WILD RICE LAKES  
COMMUNITY HEALTH  
WETLANDS  
FLOODPLAINS  
GEOLOGY AND SOILS  
VEGETATION  
FISH AND WILDLIFE  
BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECTED ANIMAL SPECIES  
ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES  
AIR QUALITY

REFERENCES:

- In this report, "CO<sub>2</sub>" should be read as short for CO<sub>2</sub>e, or equivalent weight of carbon dioxide. Greenhouse gas emissions actually included more than CO<sub>2</sub>, and those gases have various weights. The Line 3 expansion project includes both the heavy crude oil that would flow through a new pipeline and the light crude oil already flowing through the existing pipeline, which would be reapportioned to other lines. O'Reilly, Ann C. (Administrative law judge). (2018, Apr. 23). Findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendation. Finding 678. In *Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings*. 196-197. Retrieved January 17, 2020 from [https://mn.gov/oah/assets/2500-32764-2500-33377-enbridge-line-3-report\\_tcm19-336838.pdf](https://mn.gov/oah/assets/2500-32764-2500-33377-enbridge-line-3-report_tcm19-336838.pdf)
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- This number includes 32.6 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> from electricity generated in Minnesota and 7.4 million tons CO<sub>2</sub> from imported electricity. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. (n.d.). 2016 sector sources of GHG emissions and storage. In *Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*. Retrieved January 17, 2020 from <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>
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- The number given by the EPA is 3,893,003.27 metric tons CO<sub>2</sub> per power plant, which is 4,291,301.54 U.S. tons CO<sub>2</sub> after conversion. That number goes into 193 million tons CO<sub>2</sub>, 45 times. United States Environmental Protection Agency. (n.d.). Greenhouse gases equivalencies calculator—calculations and references. In *United States Environmental Protection Agency*. Retrieved January 17, 2020 from <https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gases-equivalencies-calculator-calculations-and-references>
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