



Community members gathered at the Six Nations Tourism building to question Enbridge on the details of the Line 10/11 replacement, which will see 40km of oil pipeline drained, flushed, and parts abandoned throughout Six Nations territory. PHOTO BY ERICA JAMIESON

# Enbridge to replace pipeline that crosses Six Nations territory

By Erica Jamieson

**SIX NATIONS** – Enbridge Pipelines Inc. set up an information meeting at Six Nations Tourism on August 11th from 3 pm – 7 pm. Mark Bowler, Manager of Stakeholders and Aboriginal Affairs, said, “Elected Council wanted to have this open house.” Bowler told those gathered that Enbridge Pipeline Inc. needs to replace the existing Line 10 pipeline.

Line 10/11 is a 146 km long pipeline built in 1962 that runs from Westover to West Seneca, NY. According to Enbridge, a 40km section of the pipeline starting north of Six Nations territory running through Brant County and ending just east of the Hamilton International Airport at the Nanticoke Junction will be replaced this year.

As part of the replacement sections of the line will be “decommissioned”; essentially this means they will be drained and capped off and will remain buried on-site underground. According to Enbridge this is the “safest and least disruptive available option. When we decommission a pipeline, we continue to look after it. Landowners are not responsible for Enbridge’s decommissioned pipelines—we are. Forever.”

Enbridge says that leaving the decommissioned sections of pipeline on-site and underground will prevent disturbing “farmlands, neighbourhoods, roadways, wetlands, and green spaces, which we prefer to avoid whenever possible.”

The replacement process involves draining

the crude oil from the pipeline, flushing it, segmenting it and treating the pipeline so it does not corrode.

Enbridge says Line 10 currently transports 63,500 barrels a day of Canadian crude oil to a refinery owned by the United Refinery Company in Warren, Pa.

Documentation distributed by Enbridge about the Line 10 replacement reads, “Our Line 10 Westover Segment Replacement Project involves replacing an approximately 35-kilometre section of 12-inch-diameter pipe with 20-inch-diameter pipe. Following project completion, Line 10’s average daily capacity will more closely approximate what the line has carried in the past. This segment replacement is not about expanding the capacity of

Line 10—it’s about routine maintenance and fitness of our lines.”

According to the Oil and Gas Journal, United Refining Co. entered into a maintenance and upgrade agreement with Enbridge for the section of Line 10. The pipeline carries crude oil from Canada to an oil refinery in Pennsylvania. United Refining funded Enbridge in 2014 with \$36 million in integrity costs for the project and another \$28 million for half the cost of replacing the pipeline.

Enbridge says that the project of replacing the existing pipeline is expected to carry on going well past 2018. “Pending regulatory approval, the Westover-to-Binbrook segment is scheduled for replacement in 2017. Based on our current analysis of future shipper needs and maintenance

requirements, replacement of other segments over the subsequent several years is expected to be the optimal pipeline management approach; it is anticipated that applications for those replacements would be filed in 2018 and later.”

Many community members present at the meeting were unaware not only about the line replacement project but that an oil pipeline was present on Six Nations territory to begin with. Toni Anthony, a Six Nations Band Member and local catering business owner present at the meeting was shocked with the information being presented. Anthony said, “I didn’t even know what questions to ask.”

Community members chatter in the parking lot was slightly more confrontational than

inside. Six Nation’s Police presence may have deterred anyone from acting out. When asked why they were there Six Nations Police Constable Tim Bomberry said, “Just want to make sure everyone’s cool, that’s all.”

Bowler says if all goes as planned the pipelines will be replaced and run better than before, however, an oil spill is always a possibility. Bowler said that the pipeline has been there running safely for up to 50 years in some cases. “We gotta make sure they continue to work and work well and that people are prepared in case something goes wrong...”

According to the documentation Enbridge is distributing regarding the Line 10 replacement “Pipelines are the safest,