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Contact: Julia P. Valentine

Tel: 202-366-4831

Gradual Restart Plan for Enbridge Line 6B in Michigan Approved by PHMSA under Strict Oversight *Return to Operations Contingent on Additional Repairs and Continued Safety Oversight by PHMSA*

WASHINGTON – After a thorough review of the repairs made and the revised restart plan, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced that it is allowing Enbridge to begin a gradual return to operations on Line 6B near Marshall, Michigan.

This gradual restart will be tightly controlled and closely monitored by PHMSA investigators, as well as by an independent third party expert that reports directly to the pipeline safety agency. This third party will observe control room operations in Edmonton and will monitor the most critical pump station locations including the St. Clair River. PHMSA staff will also exercise its authority to stop the process at any time if needed.

“Safety is the number one priority at the Department of Transportation. Line 6B will only return to gradual operations under the watchful eye of PHMSA investigators to ensure that it is done safely and without incident,” said USDOT Deputy Secretary John Porcari. “We will continue to closely monitor this situation to ensure that Enbridge lives up to its promises, they act upon every provision that is required under the restart plan and that they do so safely and on time.”

On Friday, PHMSA proposed an update to the original Corrective Action Order it issued to Enbridge in August. Enbridge has agreed to the terms and PHMSA today made the order final. In it, PHMSA ordered Enbridge to complete a host of safety requirements and submit written plans for repairs, to PHMSA’s satisfaction, as part of beginning limited operations of Line 6B. Most immediately, within two weeks, there must be two assessments of the safety functioning of the line. PHMSA has also ordered an extensive series of assessments of the entire length of Line 6B, and will require that any anomalies presenting a risk to the public or the environment be repaired as soon as possible.

Enbridge is ordered by PHMSA to repair every portion of Lakehead Line 6B that has one of the 154 specific known anomalies according to a strict timeline of 180 days. PHMSA will hold Enbridge to strict compliance with all terms and will vigorously pursue enforcement action if Enbridge fails to meet any of the terms.

All remaining anomalies identified for repair or replacement in the company's July 15 submission for a two and a half year extension must also be repaired or replaced within 180 days. The two and half year extension request, as Deputy Secretary Porcari reported to Congress last week, was denied.

Finally, the company must include project plans and a schedule for the total replacement of the pipe in the entire St. Clair River crossing within one year of restart.

Investigators have been on site in Marshall, Michigan for eight weeks overseeing all Enbridge repairs to Line 6B, reviewing all of the data for the pipeline, and participating in all community information sessions. PHMSA took the extraordinary step of requiring Enbridge to hire a third party to report directly to PHMSA to ensure that it is taking every step and making every effort possible to ensure a safe, orderly repair and gradual restart process. PHMSA also enlisted the help of Oak Ridge Laboratories to help analyze new inspection data to ensure that no imminent hazards exist on the pipeline.

The pipeline has been repaired at the failure location as well as areas identified to have similar environmental or operating conditions. USDOT Deputy Secretary John Porcari has visited the site twice, as has the career leadership of PHMSA. PHMSA personnel will remain on site as long as necessary to ensure proper operations and Enbridge's adherence to repair plans up and down Line 6B.

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