

# Fargo activists join nationwide protest against completed Line 3 oil pipeline

Protesters gathered in Fargo to demand a federal environmental impact study of the Line 3 pipeline.

Written By: C.S. Hagen | 6:05 pm, Dec. 14, 2021



Karen VanFossan, a pastor, waves a water protector sign with other activists in front of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers building Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021, in Fargo. C.S. Hagen / The Forum

**FARGO** — About a dozen protesters gathered outside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers headquarters Tuesday, Dec. 14, in solidarity with a national movement to call for a federal environmental impact study, or EIS, of a Minnesota pipeline.

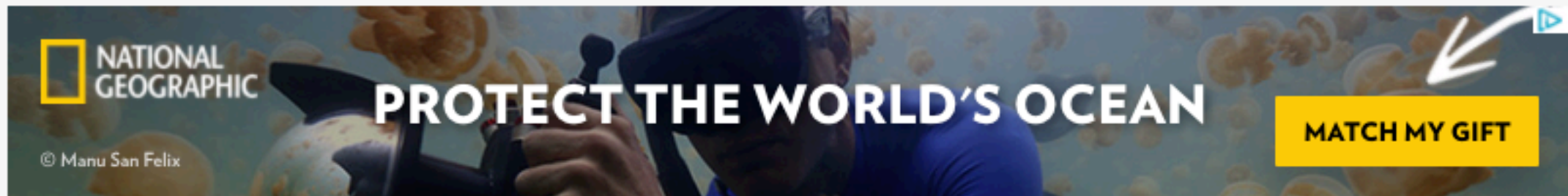
After months of protest, many of the activists said they feel frustrated as Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline has already been completed, but they do not plan to stop protesting.

Fargo police arrived late Tuesday afternoon to remind protesters to stay on public property at the headquarters address of 1020 36th St. S.



“We will never stop fighting for waters and land,” said Hannah Cook of Moorhead. She spent time at many of the camps pitted against Line 3 over the summer months.

“One day, it will be turned off. It’s a ticking time bomb,” Cook said. “It’s not over. Line 3 was huge for waking up the community, and for me, my entire world has changed.”



No one from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers came out to speak to the activists during the protest.

Enbridge, the company that constructed Line 3, said on its website that it is dedicated to ensuring the protection of cultural resources, water, land and wildlife during construction, and it has received more than 20 federal, state and local permits and approvals prior to construction “of this most studied pipeline project in Minnesota history.”

“Protesters are forgetting the extensive 13,500-page environmental impact statement prepared for Line 3 by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Commerce,” stated Juli Kellner, an Enbridge spokeswoman. “The analysis took 16 months to complete, and involved 27 public scoping meetings, 22 additional public meetings once the draft EIS was issued to obtain public feedback, and the consideration of and response to hundreds of comments from the public that were solicited and received at every stage of the process. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) reviewed and unanimously found the FEIS adequate, reaffirming the independent recommendation of an administrative law judge.”

Vanessa Clark, an organizer of the Fargo protest that was part of The Action Network, said she and others feel their cries have gone ignored by politicians who use the issue as a talking point.

“There have been lots of calls to people in authority to do something about Line 3. It’s a shame that it’s completed, but we can still fight to cut it off,” Clark said.

A press release from The Action Network said, “The time for an EIS is past due, as the construction of Line 3 has already led to frac-outs, breached aquifers and irreversible ecological damage. The need for a federal EIS has reached an emergency level.”

For Moorhead resident Amanda Unger, the completion of Line 3, which carries crude Canadian Tar Sands oil, is especially sad because the Mississippi River runs through her hometown, and the pipeline crosses the river twice.

“It’s a loss, and it’s frustrating,” Unger said.