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For Immediate Release

October 11, 2016

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State Updates Local Officials, Industry Leaders on Green Bay Pipeline Closure

Madison – Today, Department of Administration (DOA) Secretary Scott Neitzel, along with representatives from the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), held an informational meeting with area state legislators and industry leaders in Green Bay regarding petroleum distribution following the closure of a 110 mile segment of the West Shore Pipeline. Governor Walker and the state of Wisconsin have taken several proactive steps to ensure adequate fuel supplies for citizens in the northeastern Wisconsin region.

“Effective collaboration between local officials, industry leaders, and state agencies has helped to ensure an adequate supply of fuel to this region over the summer months,” Secretary Neitzel said. “Moving forward we will continue to listen and cooperate with the industry to find what will ultimately be a market-driven solution.”

In May, Governor Walker issued [Executive Order #197](#) following the temporary closure of the West Shore Pipeline which waived certain state and federal regulations for truck drivers to alleviate supply shortages caused by the temporary shutdown.

Representatives from DOA, PSC, and WisDOT met with petroleum and trucking industry leaders in August to determine the most effective steps to avoid a petroleum shortage in the affected region. Industry reported adding capacity at terminals serving the area, hiring more drivers, utilizing barge transportation, and weight limit waivers to keep the fuel supply flush in Green Bay and prices in a normal range. As a result of the August meeting, state officials made contact with the Port of Green Bay to discuss all options for the winter.

After West Shore concluded the pipeline would have to be rebuilt and would not be repaired, Governor Walker issued [Executive Order #212](#) in September again suspending certain load limitation requirements for petroleum transportation to help ease the fuel constraints in the Green Bay area, as well as other parts of northeastern Wisconsin. This order will be in effect until November 5, 2016. State officials will continue to evaluate transportation needs to consider extending the order.

The state is committed to ensuring that all residents have reasonable access to fuel and other refined petroleum products, and will continue to work with industry across the board to ensure this supply is maintained.

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