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Transcript of the Testimony of

Date: September 8, 2022

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Case: ST. IGNACE LINE 5 TUNNEL ENVIROMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT

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ZOOM RECORDED
PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE
LINE 5 TUNNEL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

September 8, 2022

St. Ignace, Michigan

Little Bear Arena
275 Marquette Street
St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

Lt. Col. Brett Boyle, Commander,
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
Detroit District

Abbey Ness, Facilitator

Kerrie Kuhne, Chief Western Section,
Regulatory Branch

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1 Via Zoom Hosted in Fenton, Michigan

2 Thursday, September 8, 2022

3 - - -

4 (At 3:14 p.m., comment by John Symaz)

5 JOHN SYMAZ: My name is John Symaz, S-y-m-a-z, I
6 live in Trout Lake, Michigan, about 25 miles from here --
7 St. Ignace, and I want to voice my complete support of the
8 building of Line 5.

9 There's -- there's belief that we are going to
10 be able to take care of our energy needs with the sun and
11 our solar panels and the windmills, and there's various
12 other what they call renewable energy forces, but to
13 believe for a second that those are going to be able to
14 even remotely satisfy our energy needs is foolish, it's
15 ignorant, it's self-serving, and it serves only the
16 purpose for the people that are attempting to make that
17 happen in this country, to walk around with an air of
18 superiority and some kind of a virtue signaling thing that
19 convinces them that since they're opposed to us and our
20 energy sources, they are a superior person somehow.

21 That's such a pipe dream, such a -- a fallacy
22 that it's -- it's a departure from reality. There's --
23 you can't sit here looking at this piece of machinery that
24 records me, I'm looking at your location where you're at,
25 the fact that we're able to do this isn't coming from the

1 sun. The energy for this -- for the manufacturing of this
2 device, these speakers, this table -- now it's a -- you
3 know, looking at the -- the few people that believe that,
4 and just taking a look most recently at the whole state of
5 California; I mean you have to shut down at certain hours,
6 the people can't use the devices they've bought, washers,
7 dryers, dishwashers, air conditioners, et cetera, et
8 cetera, it goes on and on, they outlawed gas stoves in
9 their home, and they now outlawed -- I believe it's 2035,
10 gas powered cars, trucks. What, is that going to apply to
11 tractors too? I mean what are -- what are the people
12 going to do in 2035? They may become they when we have
13 developed an energy source that is compatible with our
14 needs today. That may happen in the future, but it's not
15 even on the horizon now.

16 There's no evidence that there's anything that
17 can beat out fossil fuels for -- for our energy needs in
18 this country, if we want to stay the way we are now. If
19 we want to have the lifestyle. If we want to have the
20 advantage. If we want to have the educational facilities,
21 the medical facilities, travel options, the -- the daily
22 back and forth and where we want to go on vacation, the
23 factories that build trailers, the factories that build
24 everything we see.

25 Sitting in this room right there, no -- you

1 can't -- I can't put my eyes on anything that wouldn't be
2 here if it wasn't for fossil fuels. There's nothing.
3 This would have to be leveled, okay, returned back to its
4 native state.

5 Look at countries that are starting to do that.
6 They're -- they're reversing themselves going backwards in
7 history to burning wood, burning whatever they can in
8 order to provide heat for their homes. The windmill --
9 the -- the energy used to build -- to design, to build, to
10 transport windmills, solar panels, around this planet is
11 far, far more than those are going to save. Until that
12 equation is fixed, it's a fallacy, it's a delusionary
13 fallacy for people to think that they are going to end
14 this use of fossil fuels.

15 When you start restricting people's ability to
16 travel, to go to a hospital, to go to pick up their kids
17 at school, take a vacation, the list goes on and on, water
18 sports, snowmobiles, four-wheelers, ships, airplanes, the
19 -- the use of fossil fuels allows us on this planet to
20 live the life that we've become accustomed to, so we have
21 to go backwards in order to satisfy the few that believe
22 they're blessed with this gift and this insight that the
23 rest of us have failed to grasp? It's ludicrous. And
24 we're supposed to stand by and let it happen?

25 That isn't going to take place. It's just not

1 going to happen. Who loses -- who loses if they can't
2 afford electricity, energy, period? It's the poor people,
3 it's the people that don't have access. That's what it's
4 going to be. They're going to take away, not only in our
5 country, but in other developing countries. We're going
6 to be telling them you guys can't have electricity,
7 because in order to get it to you, we would have to burn
8 fossil fuels, and we can't do that anymore, because we
9 believe it is heating this planet and therefore our job is
10 to stop that at any cost. And since they can't stop it
11 from happening on private land by drilling and pumping,
12 they want to stop it by shutting down the pipelines. It's
13 -- it's part of the whole -- this whole green energy
14 garbage that gets shoved down your face everyday when you
15 turn the TVs on, or go to different sites; they believe
16 this is going to happen, and who's -- who's behind all
17 that? Who's making these laws and these rules? And it's
18 -- it doesn't affect the rich and wealthy people with
19 connections, it doesn't affect the people in Washington or
20 California or the -- the rulers, the elite people in this
21 country are always going to have access to it, because
22 they always have the money, and it's big money, and so
23 when we allow these kinds of things to take place, these
24 protests and ending all of this, we're just being -- we're
25 just being com -- it's a big charade. It's a charade.

1 It's got nothing to do with saving the planet.

2 If they were so concerned, if they were so
3 concerned, these people that are that are stopping this --
4 trying to stop it, about the environment and the damage
5 it's doing to this environment, then they wouldn't be
6 using it, and they wouldn't be using anything that's a
7 result of it. They're not though. They want the
8 convenience without the burden. That's -- that's what it
9 boils down to. They want to have the energy, they want to
10 have the clothes, they want to have their t-shirts that
11 says no oil written with oil. The manufacture of these t-
12 shirts wouldn't be happening without oil and gas and coal.

13 But they don't look at it like that. They don't
14 see themselves as hypocritical when they're using it every
15 single day of their lives, but they cloak themselves in
16 this -- this aura of superiority because well, I have to
17 use it, because I'm trying to stop it. But you're not
18 trying to stop it, so I'm better than you, so I get to use
19 it, you don't. This is the argument being made.

20 So watching this business going on here at this
21 event and the -- the -- the circus that goes along with
22 it, and if -- if everybody here stopping using anything
23 that was ever produced by oil and gas, they'd be living in
24 a hut in the woods somewhere cutting wood right now,
25 getting ready for the winter. That's what would be

1 happening.

2 So I guess you have to summarize that somehow.
3 But it's -- it's people that are paying attention to
4 what's going on, the money that's being made in this whole
5 green renewable energy façade, the people that are
6 investing in it, knowing it's going to take place, knowing
7 that it's futile, because it's not going to stop any of
8 the damage that's being done, if you want to interpret it
9 as damage, because you cannot make a machine that makes
10 more energy than it took to make that machine. We don't
11 have that technology, it doesn't exist. It may in the
12 future, but it doesn't now, so for us to say well, at some
13 point in the future it'll arrive, therefore we should shut
14 it off now, and the chaos that would result in this state,
15 in the country, in the world if that was to take place
16 would dwarf any of the -- the endless wars that have been
17 going on forever. It would be absolute chaos.

18 So that's my stake on the whole thing.

19 (At 3:24 p.m., comment ends)

20 (At 5:48 p.m., comment by George Lindquist)

21 GEORGE LINDQUIST: My name is George Lindquist,
22 G-e-o-r-g-e, L-i-n-d-q-u-i-s-t.

23 I'm here speaking as a past president of
24 Michigan United Conservation Club. It's an organization
25 of 230 plus conservation clubs across the state of

1 Michigan, some 40,000 members. We passed a resolution
2 this past June at our annual convention. I'm hoping to
3 read that into the -- into the program here.

4 So the title of the resolution is MUCC, Michigan
5 United Conservation Club, supports Enbridge line tunnel as
6 best alternative.

7 Whereas, 2018 Michigan United Conservation Club
8 resolution spelled out issues with the current oil and gas
9 pipeline that runs along the bottom of the Straits of
10 Mackinac, and asked for consideration of alternatives to
11 the current pipeline; and

12 Whereas, trucking, rail, or boats are much
13 riskier safety wise and wholly inefficient for moving
14 material such as this; and

15 Whereas, since this resolution has passed,
16 Enbridge has proposed a much safer method of crossing the
17 Great Lakes via deep underground tunnel, using the latest
18 technology and safety standards;

19 Whereas, the notion of just shutting this
20 important infrastructure down is no different than asking
21 to shut off all utilities to your home. Some 55 percent
22 of all propane in Michigan is transported through this
23 line, among many other benefits that we may and may not
24 readily see.

25 Whereas, we all appreciate alternative to fossil

1 fuels, MUCC realizes that the world will be dependent on
2 the safe delivery of fossil fuels such as these for some
3 time to come.

4 Now, therefore be it resolved that MUCC supports
5 Enbridge's underground tunnel project as an important
6 infrastructure update, and this be carried out in the
7 safest most reliable manner possible.

8 Be it further resolved that the State requires
9 Enbridge to be responsible financially for the
10 construction and operation of the tunnel, holding the
11 State harmless, that Enbridge provide the State with
12 financial assurances, not including self-insurance, that
13 would cover cleanup of a catastrophic release to the
14 Straits, and that the company submits an acceptable
15 monitoring plan.

16 Be it further resolved that MUCC asks the State
17 of Michigan to work with Enbridge and its contractors to
18 move -- move this project forward.

19 So this resolution was passed overwhelmingly at
20 our convention this past June. You know, there was great
21 discussion about it all, but in the end, this is what we
22 came up with. I feel that MUCC has some of the most
23 democratic ways of coming to -- or approving resolutions
24 that -- I call it painfully democratic at times -- but
25 because it's -- it's slow and tedious, but in the end, we

1 come up with solid recommendations. This is the
2 recommendation we'd like to see happen here to get this
3 tunnel built in the safest -- you know, using the latest,
4 greatest technologies, and we also want to get -- the
5 sooner this tunnel gets built, the sooner we can shut down
6 these current lines that are -- that are putting us all at
7 risk, the sooner we can move forward into a safer world
8 here.

9 That's what I got.

10 MUCC is going to be submitting some future
11 comments also before the October deadline. I wanted to
12 make that known, but I'm here representing them today.

13 (At 5:54 p.m., comment ends)

14 (At 5:56 p.m., comment by Pat Kolb)

15 PAT KOLB: My first name is Pat, last name is
16 Kolb, K-o-l-b.

17 I'm here from Ferrell Gas Propane, but more --
18 more than representing Ferrell Gas, I'm here to talk for
19 the customers of Ferrell Gas Propane Company.

20 I don't know anything about geology or tunnel
21 building, but there isn't much I don't know about the
22 propane industry, as I've worked in the industry at
23 Ferrell Gas for over 20 years, in locations all over the
24 state of Michigan, and Wisconsin. I've also lived in
25 northern Michigan most of my life.

1 I keep hearing disinformation about how shutting
2 down Line 5 would not adversely impact the propane
3 industry, and want to point out some facts about Line 5
4 and the propane industry.

5 Shutting down Line 5 will close propane
6 terminals in Superior, Wisconsin, Rapid River, Michigan,
7 and St. Clair, Michigan. This will remove almost
8 200,000,000 gallons of propane from the upper Midwest
9 supply annually. This would negatively impact 150,000
10 propane customers in the state of Michigan, Wisconsin, and
11 Minnesota. The customers are using propane to heat their
12 homes, and to heat water and other thing. Ferrell Gas
13 purchases 16 million gallons of propane from Line 5 every
14 year. Ferrell Gas has 19,875 customers that are serviced
15 off of Enbridge Line 5.

16 The alternatives to Line 5 for propane do not
17 exist, and would take several years to build. Last year,
18 the propane supply was so tight, and that was with Line 5,
19 that many of our competitors were actually not able to
20 deliver propane at the level that they wanted to deliver,
21 and we were hand to mouth through most of the winter.

22 I support the Line 5 tunnel. I also love the
23 Great Lakes and bel -- believe that replacing Line 5 in a
24 tunnel is the safest way to ensure that we have the fuel
25 that we need to heat our homes and keep our beautiful

1 lakes clean.

2 Thank you very much.

3 (At 5:58 p.m., comment ends)

4 (At 6:01 p.m., comment by Stephanie Bixler)

5 STEPHANIE BIXLER: My name is Stephanie Bixler;
6 S-t-e-p-h-a-n-i-e.

7 I would also like to, in agreement with some
8 earlier comments in the forum, ask for an additional at
9 least 180 days for the public comment from the Army Corps
10 of Engineers that they make it available to a greater
11 audience farther down state also, because this is
12 something that affects a greater region than just this
13 area. It affects all of us.

14 I would like to say that we need to consider the
15 travel treaty rights of 1836, the cultural preservation,
16 the history, the archeological learning and progression of
17 that. Hunting and fishing rights.

18 I'd like to cite to the International Joint
19 Commission Great Lakes Science Advisory Board study from
20 2018, stating that all levels of aquatic food chain would
21 be impacted by any kind of a spill from Line 5, from
22 plankton to fish eating birds and mammals.

23 I really can't comprehend how it's even thought
24 of to endanger 20 percent of the world's freshwater
25 surface resource. It is a resource of over 40 million

1 people, and drinking water for a majority of them.

2 In this study, it was identified 15 areas of
3 intake -- water intake that are very vulnerable to the
4 crude oil spills, from northern Michigan all the way to
5 northern Lake Ontario.

6 I would like to now go ahead and cite Dr. Rachel
7 Havrelock, director of the University of Illinois Chicago
8 Freshwater Lab, in studying -- she studies the lakehead
9 system pipeline from Canadian Enbridge, and this is a
10 direct quote, in really, really simple terms, there is
11 nowhere worse on earth to have an oil pipeline system than
12 the Great Lakes Region. It is, everything aside, the
13 world's worst planning. In addition to 20 percent of the
14 world's freshwater supply, it is 84 percent of North
15 America's freshwater supply, and over 35 million people
16 from both sides of the border drink from that.

17 I would like to also remind, as others have
18 stated, of the 2010 Line 6B tragedy and heinous offense
19 from Enbridge that could have been prevented. They acted
20 17 hours after they were aware of this rupture in their
21 line, and they restarted it twice, continuing to spill
22 water -- or spill -- excuse me, spill oil, obviously, and
23 discharge it into Kalamazoo River, twice. It's still not
24 fully cleaned up. The EPA has estimated that there's over
25 80,000 gallons of oil still mixed in with the sediment.

1 Unlike most light or medium crudes, tar sands
2 bitumen is more dense than water. After it spills into a
3 body of water, it will sink or be suspended. At that
4 point, traditional methods of cleanup, such as booms or
5 dispersants, are moot, okay, they not are helpful at all.
6 Once it gets to the bottom, it mixes with the sediment and
7 has to be dredged, and how could that even be remotely
8 possible in the Straits before it is affecting over 700
9 miles shoreline and the drinking water, and it's not going
10 to get cleaned up in time before it is a crisis.

11 This process is described by the National
12 Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine in their
13 study from 2016, the spills of diluted bitumen from
14 pipelines commissioned by congress.

15 I would also now like to reference the
16 University of Michigan hydrodynamics expert, David Schwab,
17 ran over 840 simulations of -- of release from Line 5.
18 The study was supported by the National Wildlife
19 Federation and released by the UM Water Center, and a
20 single spill is going to follow over 720 miles of
21 shoreline.

22 It is a 70-year-old pipeline that is failing,
23 and it cannot continue.

24 I would like to reference comments already made
25 by Katie Carey (ph) on the studies of the pipeline workers

1 that come in to do these works, called man camps, that
2 increase sexual assaults, murders, missing Indigenous
3 people from the area, as studied and known in Minnesota
4 and other places.

5 The Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Admin
6 indicates at least 2,400 Line 5 defects as of 2011. Who
7 knows how many there are now. And Enbridge has only
8 inspected less than 12 percent.

9 This demonstrates how they cannot and will not
10 monitor -- properly monitor the leaks, and that's a risk
11 that we cannot afford. As a population of the people, and
12 as -- looking for our generations in the future, and the
13 survival of our environment and ecosystem on which we
14 live, no matter the money or profits, we cannot afford
15 that risk.

16 It has been pointed out also that their board
17 has not even approved this tunnel. They will abandon it
18 and leave us with their mess and their trash. Once in
19 future as we move forward with -- with renewable energy,
20 it will no longer profit them, they will leave it, and we
21 will be left with either their trash, their cleanup, or
22 something that is failing and breaking down, and that is
23 what I have to say for now.

24 (At 6:10 p.m., comment ends)

25 NO FURTHER COMMENTORS

1 STATE OF MICHIGAN)

2)ss

3 COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

4 CERTIFICATION

5 I certify that this transcript, consisting of
6 seventeen (17) pages, is a complete, true, and correct
7 record of the comments made to this reporter on September
8 8, 2022.

9 I also certify that I am not a relative of,
10 employee of, or an attorney for a party; nor am I
11 financially interested in the action.

12

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14

Deanna L. Harrison, CER 7464

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Notary Public, Oakland County, Michigan

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My Commission Expires: 07/11/23

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