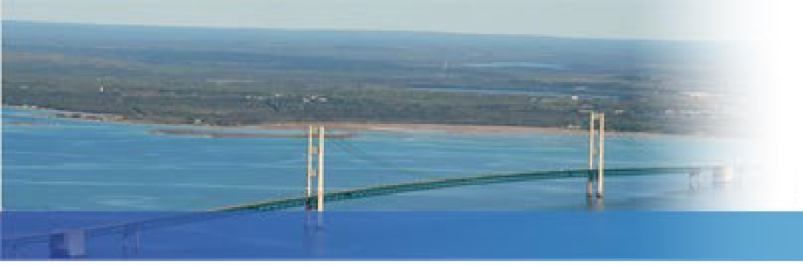


Fact Sheet

Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel Project Environmental Impact Statement

INTRODUCTION

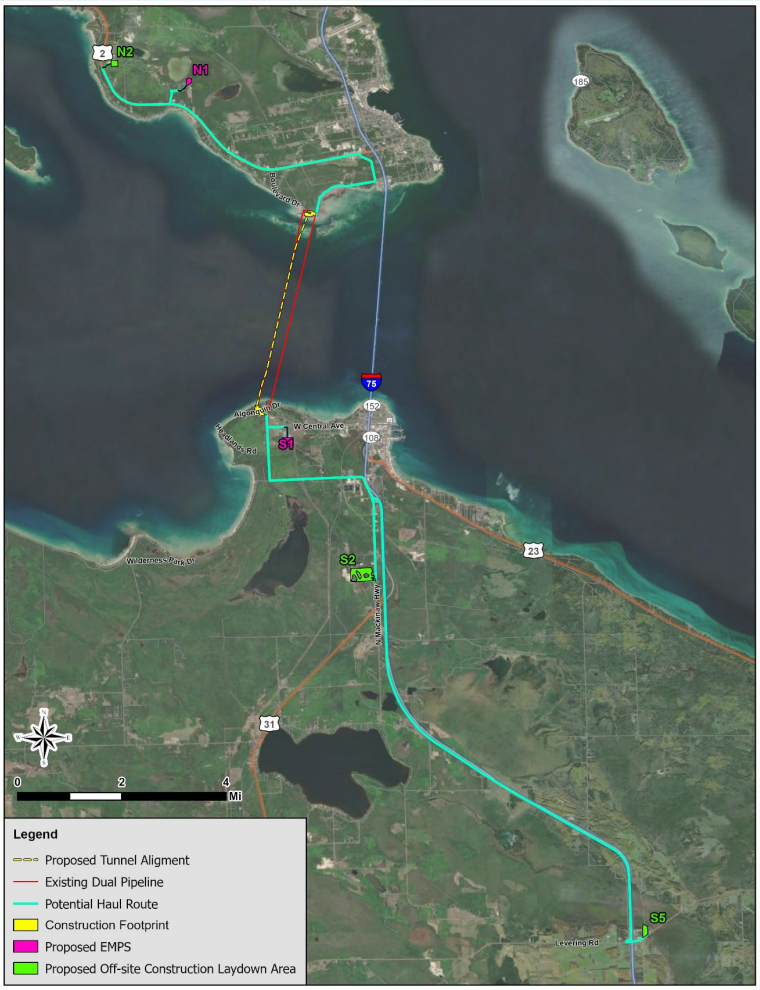
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District, is reviewing an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit by Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (Enbridge) to construct a 21-foot-diameter tunnel (the Line 5 Tunnel Project) that would house a replacement segment of Enbridge's existing Line 5 pipeline crossing the Straits of Mackinac (Straits) in Lake Michigan. The Line 5 Straits crossing currently consists of two 20-inch diameter pipelines (Dual Pipelines) that rest on or are anchored to the lakebed of the Straits.

Under the Applicant's Preferred Alternative, Enbridge would construct a tunnel underneath the lakebed of the Straits (see back page) to house a new 30-inch single pipeline for light crude oil, light synthetic crude oil, light sweet crude oil, and natural gas liquids, replacing the existing Dual Pipelines. Enbridge proposes to decommission the existing Dual Pipelines in-place.

Portions of the project over which the USACE has regulatory jurisdiction include the structures and work associated with tunnel construction under the Straits, a water intake structure in the Straits, and the discharge of fill material into wetlands.

PROJECT PURPOSE

The purpose of the project is to provide safe transportation of light crude oil, light synthetic crude oil, light sweet crude oil, and natural gas liquids between Enbridge's existing North Straits Facility and Mackinaw Station, and to maintain the existing capacity of the Line 5 pipeline while minimizing environmental risks.



LINE 5 LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION

What is the Location of the Proposed Line 5 Tunnel?
The proposed project is located in Mackinac County in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Emmet County in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The tunnel would cross below the lakebed of the Straits, connecting Point La Barbe in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to McGulpin Point in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. This approximately 3.6-mile span represents the shortest distance between Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas.

How would the Line 5 Tunnel be Constructed?
Except for the entrance points on either side of the Straits, the tunnel would be constructed entirely through bedrock, at depths of 60 to 370 feet beneath the lakebed.

This would be done using a tunnel-boring machine. Pre-cast concrete segmental lining would be installed as the tunnel is constructed, and the space outside the tunnel's concrete lining would be filled with low-permeability grout.

Temporary onshore construction facilities would include stormwater ponds, spoil storage and management areas, a construction water treatment plant, materials storage and staging areas, office and parking facilities, and a power substation and generator. Construction would also require the establishment of two permanent placement sites for excavated material, one on either side of the Straits, as well as the establishment of temporary off-site laydown areas.

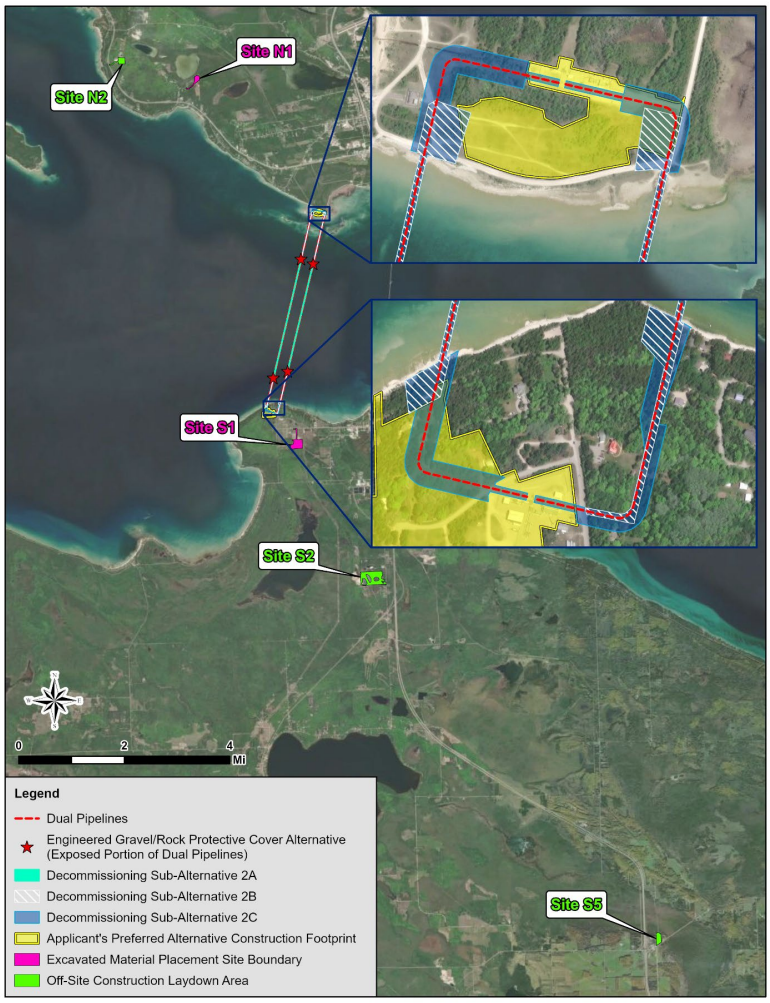
Permanent onshore facilities would include stormwater ponds and outfalls, access drives, parking, and a ventilation building, among others. Temporarily disturbed areas would be revegetated. Upon completion, Enbridge proposes to decommission the Dual Pipelines by purging and cleaning them and abandoning them in-place.

US Army Corps of Engineers
Detroit District

Please visit the Project website for latest updates and to sign up for Project notifications:
https://www.line5tunneleis.com/

Fact Sheet

Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel Project Environmental Impact Statement



ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

In response to Enbridge's application, the USACE, Detroit District, prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Line 5 Tunnel Project in accordance with current law, regulation, and policy. The EIS is an environmental document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federal actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

The EIS includes consideration of the Applicant's Preferred Alternative (described above), the No Action Alternative (in which USACE denies the permit), as well as other alternatives identified during the EIS scoping period (August 15 – October 14, 2022) that were determined to meet USACE screening criteria. This includes an "Engineered Gravel/Rock Protective Cover" alternative in which the Applicant would place gravel/rock over the existing Dual Pipelines for added risk minimization in lieu of constructing the tunnel. The EIS also considers a series of sub-alternatives for Dual Pipeline decommissioning: Decommissioning Sub-Alternative 2a (removal of exposed portions of the Dual Pipelines along the lakebed); 2b (removal of pipeline segments under 2a in addition to buried portions up to the ordinary high water mark of the Straits); and 2c (full removal of the Dual Pipelines, including buried, onshore portions).

The information in the EIS will inform USACE's permit decision, but it is not a decision document. USACE has published a Notice of Availability to initiate the public comment period, which will end June 30, 2025. Following the close of the comment period, the Final EIS will be completed based on comments received, and USACE will prepare a Record of Decision (ROD) for the action. The ROD will document USACE's permit decision, including USACE's public interest review and determination of whether the proposed project complies with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b) Guidelines (Title 40 C.F.R. § 230).

TIMELINE

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

Online Visit: www.line5tunneleis.com and go to the "Comment Here" Tab.

By Mail Mail your comments to:
Line 5 Tunnel EIS
6501 Shady Grove Road
P.O. Box 10178
Gaithersburg, MD 20898

Verbally USACE will hold two virtual public meetings (Meeting #1: June 18th, 2025, 1-4pm EDT; and Meeting #2: June 25th, 2025, 5-8pm EDT), during which attendees can provide verbal comments, which will be transcribed and recorded for review and consideration. https://www.line5tunneleis.com/public-meeting-information/