

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Line 5 Tunnel EIS
16501 Shady Grove Road
P.O. Box 10178
Gaithersburg, MD 20898

Subject: Reject Enbridge's permit for its proposed tunnel under the Great Lakes at the Straits of Mackinac -- Line 5 Tunnel Project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement

To Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lieutenant General William H. "Butch" Graham, Jr., USACE Great Lakes and Ohio River Division Commander and Division Engineer Colonel Daniel J. Herlihy, and USACE Detroit District Commander Lieutenant Colonel Wallace W. Bandeff:

As someone who cares deeply about the Great Lakes, I call on you to reject Enbridge's permit for its proposed tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac for its Line 5 oil pipeline. The company's plan to construct an inevitably leaky oil pipeline beneath the Great Lakes lakebed is dangerous and irresponsible.

The proposed six-year project is not in the public interest and would have significant negative impacts on the local community and environment, and poses the risk of a catastrophic oil spill into the Great Lakes—one of the world's largest freshwater ecosystems. Do not enable Enbridge to serve its corporate interests while abandoning Michigan communities and fragile ecosystems to absorb catastrophic environmental and economic risks.

The negative impacts of this proposed project would be far-reaching, including:

Impacts on tourism and recreation:

The Straits of Mackinac are a popular place for kayaking, paddling, fishing, birding, and hiking. These activities would be harmed from construction noise, lighting, and heavy equipment such as cranes. Cultural and recreational sites including the Headlands International Dark Sky Park, the Old Orchard and Ridgeline Trails, McGulpin Lighthouse, the Mackinaw Area Historic Society Heritage Village, Colonial Michilimackinac Historic State Park, Mackinac Island, and Castle Rock would be negatively impacted by the construction.

Impacts on land, wildlife, and water:

The project would result in the permanent loss of wetlands on both sides of the Straits, displacing bird and wildlife populations and introducing noise and lighting impacting migratory birds. Lake trout and lake whitefish and their spawning grounds could also be affected by blasting, vibrations, and water quality changes. Tunnel boring, drilling fluids, and large equipment and vehicle use also have the potential to alter the geology of the area and contaminate the water and soil.

Impacts on local roads & residents:

Local residents and property owners would be impacted by construction noise, increased traffic, and the degradation of public roadways, with up to 282 trucks traveling to the site daily.

In addition to these negative day-to-day impacts, the project poses the risk of a catastrophic oil spill into the Great Lakes. Enbridge has a poor track record of implementing safety and mitigation measures to prevent such spills, including the 1991 Line 3 spill in Grand Rapids, Minnesota and the November 2024 Line 6 spill in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Other materials utilized at the site including drilling fluid, gases, petroleum, oil, lubricants, and coolant also pose significant risks to public safety and the environment.

Michigan's Great Lakes are irreplaceable public resources that demand the highest level of protection.

The Army Corps has a duty to protect the residents, the community, and the environment in the Great Lakes area. Despite the current administration's statements to the contrary, there is no "energy emergency" facing the United States. Line 5 is already operating in defiance of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer's order that it be shut down by 2021, and studies have shown there is little benefit to American in its continued operation.

This project poses an unprecedented threat to the community and the Great Lakes. The Army Corps must deny Enbridge's permit application because it ignores these threats to the Great Lakes.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA