

Village of Mackinaw City Parks and Recreation Board

Comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Line 5 Tunnel Project

December 2, 2025

US Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District,

The Village of Mackinaw City Parks and Recreation Board **does not support** pipeline-related construction on publicly owned and protected lands in and adjacent to Mackinaw City, including those identified in HDD Sub-Alternative 1, South of the Straits of Mackinac, in the November 14 Environmental Impact Study (EIS) from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

At least two properties in the November 2025 EIS identified for timber removal and construction in Sub-Alternative 1 are specifically protected by conservation easements, intended to protect them from development and degradation, and restrict activities on the property to low-impact public recreation endeavors and nature studies. The impact of this extensive timber removal and forest segmentation would undermine decades of collaborative conservation planning among the Village of Mackinaw City, Emmet County, the State of Michigan, the Little Traverse Conservancy, Dark Sky International, and the many foundations, partners, and taxpayers who invested in preserving these public lands.

The intended purpose of all these impacted public parks, conservation lands, and trail systems is fundamentally incompatible with industrial construction or activities associated with pipeline construction and installation. These natural areas are a vital economic and cultural asset for our region, drawing visitors from around the world to experience a natural shoreline, night sky viewing, ecological diversity, and to experience quiet and tranquility.

Potential construction impacts such as vegetation loss, soil disturbance, noise and vibration, long-term aesthetic changes, and limitations on public access pose substantial risks to the environmental integrity of the area as well as to the recreational opportunities that residents and visitors rely on. The proposed construction path appears to interrupt the flow of vehicle traffic at the point of entry to public parks, as well as multiple interconnected trail systems, segments of the Tip of the Mitt Trail, the North Country Trail, and a popular snowmobile and bike route. Neighboring McGulpin Point, also publicly owned and managed for recreation and cultural education, would experience significant disturbance that could limit or even temporarily suspend its operations.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the USACE remove HDD Installation Sub-Alternative 1 (South) from further consideration. We urge the Corps to uphold stringent federal environmental review standards and conduct diligent research with respect to the public-trust obligations associated with these properties.

Sincerely,

Village of Mackinaw City Parks & Recreation Board