



Oil & Water Don't Mix
Keep Oil Out of the Great Lakes

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Shut Down Enbridge's "Line 5" Oil Pipelines in the Straits of Mackinac *Campaign Calls on State to Shut Down Pipelines, Launch Public Review of Risks & Alternatives*

THE THREAT – A pair of 62-year-old oil pipelines running along the bottom of the Mackinac Straits threaten lasting harm to the Great Lakes, drinking water supplies, fisheries, businesses, public recreation, and the region's tourist-driven economy stretching from Lake Michigan's Beaver Island to Mackinac Island to Rogers City down the Lake Huron shore.

Built in 1953, the pipelines carry nearly 23 million gallons of oil every day through the powerful currents in the Mackinac Straits, about two miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. The pipelines are owned by Enbridge, Inc., the Canadian company responsible for the spill of one million gallons of heavy tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River watershed in 2010.

Nearly 60 percent of all pipeline disasters nationwide are linked to corrosion, welding, material or equipment failures. Campaign experts raise similar corrosion concerns on Line 5, including structural impacts from invasive zebra and quagga mussels on the pipeline exterior. Relying on 1950s technology, the twin oil pipelines also have an outdated protective coating and welds connecting the 40-foot segments that make up the pipelines, and lack the required number of supports to secure the pipes in the powerful currents of the Straits, the experts found.

Overall, one in five Michigan jobs – 718,700 jobs in all – is tied to having high quality and plentiful water, according to the state Office of the Great Lakes. Water is an important economic driver in Michigan, whether it's being used for Great Lakes shipping, advanced manufacturing, agriculture, fishing, or more than 80 other water-using industry subsectors where Michigan workers are employed.

THE SOLUTION – Thousands of citizens and dozens of environmental groups, businesses, Indian tribes, and communities support the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign's goal to protect the Great Lakes from a catastrophic oil spill. The campaign is urging Michigan Governor Rick Snyder to immediately assert his legal authority as the state's primary trustee of the Great Lakes' waters, bottomlands, and related natural resources, representing some 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water.

The state Department of Environmental Quality must conduct an open public process to evaluate the likely risks and impacts of an oil spill to the Great Lakes, neighboring communities, and the regional economy under Michigan public trust law reflected in the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act. This open public process must consider alternatives to prevent those risks and whether the Enbridge oil pipelines in the Straits warrant greater regulation, repair, replacement, or removal.

While the full public review is pending, the state should shut down the 62-year-old Enbridge oil pipelines running through the Mackinac Straits because of structural concerns recently raised by experts working with the campaign and because of the near impossibility of cleaning up an oil spill when the Straits are frozen over with feet-thick ice during strong winters. No amount of company assurances or state-of-the-art technology can ever safely protect our waters. Given the extraordinary magnitude of harm, the pipelines simply present an unacceptable risk to our Great Lakes.

WHEN – In 1953, Michigan in granted Enbridge an easement to build the oil pipelines on the state-owned bottomlands of the Straits. The state retains the right to terminate the easement and order the pipelines removed if Enbridge fails to meet all stated conditions. Enbridge in 2014 admitted to violating the easement by not installing the required supports every 75 feet along the pipelines to secure them in swift currents to the state bottomlands.

WHERE – The aging oil pipelines are part of Enbridge's 645-mile "Line 5" route running from a pipeline hub in Superior, Wisconsin, through the Upper Peninsula and Mackinac Straits, and then across lower Michigan before crossing the St. Clair River and reaching refineries in Sarnia, Ontario. With a significant amount of Line 5's oil originating in western Canada and being refined in Ontario, Enbridge is taking a high-risk shortcut through the Mackinac Straits, the very heart of the Great Lakes and "worst possible place" for an oil spill, according to a 2014 University of Michigan study.

A SERIES OF SPILLS – Enbridge's Line 5 runs through the Upper Peninsula, including Crystal Falls, where the pipeline leaked 220,000 gallons of oil into a marsh in 1999 and sparked an 8-acre fire. Since 1988, Enbridge has had 15 documented failures on Line 5, spilling about 260,000 gallons of oil – enough to fill 29 oil tanker trucks – with several of those breaks happening near the Straits, including a pinhole leak north of Manistique.

Why There's a Growing Sense of Urgency about Enbridge's "Line 5" Oil Pipelines in the Mackinac Straits

ENBRIDGE'S TROUBLING TRACK RECORD & MORE OIL FLOW:

- **Enbridge caused the nation's largest inland oil spill in July 2010** when its Line 6B pipeline burst, dumping more than 1 million gallons of heavy tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River watershed, taking four years and \$1.2 billion to clean up.
- **Enbridge's Line 5 experienced a pinhole leak in the Upper Peninsula in December 2014**, releasing an undetermined amount of natural gas liquid that dispersed into the atmosphere north of Manistique, near the Indian River.
- **Enbridge upgraded pumps in 2013, increasing oil flow through the Straits by 10 percent** or 2.1 million gallons a day.

EASEMENT VIOLATION, TASK FORCE CREATION, & ENBRIDGE'S HUBRIS – June 2014:

- **Enbridge disclosed it was in violation of the state easement by not installing the required anchoring structures** every 75 feet along the oil pipelines, and sought a "maintenance" permit to install more anchors on state-owned bottomlands.
- **Gov. Snyder formed a task force to study oil pipelines statewide, including Enbridge's Line 5 in the Straits** – a process that is closed to the public and ignores the urgency of Line 5's threat to the Straits of Mackinac.
- **Enbridge explained in response to a list of state questions about Line 5's condition:** "There is no requirement to do so, so Enbridge does not notify any regulatory agency of its inspections nor the results of those inspections."

CAMPAIGN LETTER & U OF M SPILL STUDY – July 2014:

- **17 environmental and tribal organizations sent a letter** to Gov. Snyder, the Attorney General, and DEQ director, urging immediate state action to regulate Enbridge's Line 5 pipelines under the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act.
- **A University of Michigan study depicted how devastating a potential spill of one million gallons of oil** would be for the Great Lakes, wildlife, and communities, showing oil could surround Mackinac Island, spreading a plume for 85 miles from Lake Michigan's Beaver Island to Lake Huron's Rogers City.

INADEQUATE SPILL RESPONSE PREDICTED & "DEEP CONCERN" EXPRESSED BY REGIONAL LEADERS – Fall 2014:

- **A U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development division report gained wide attention** after finding that current spill response and cleanup methods are "inadequate to find and recover submerged oil" in large bodies of fresh water and under heavy ice cover.
- **The mayors of the City of Mackinac Island, Traverse City and Grand Rapids, along with the Cheboygan County and the Mackinac Island Community Foundation sent letters to Gov. Snyder expressing concern** and demanded the state as primary steward to take immediate action to ensure that Enbridge is in compliance with the easement and to prevent a catastrophic oil spill.

VEIL OF SECRECY – May 2015:

In the name of fighting terrorism, Michigan House Republicans introduced a bill backed by Enbridge and the energy industry to **amend the state Freedom of Information Act to keep secret the location, condition, contents,** and other basic details related to pipelines and other energy infrastructure. The public and some newspaper editorial boards have condemned the bill as a transparent attempt to shield Enbridge and others from needed scrutiny.

STATE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS – Expected mid-2015:

The Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force's recommendations on Line 5 and other oil pipelines are expected mid-year. The Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign contends that the recommendations must include immediately shutting down the pipelines and opening a public process under Michigan public trust law – the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act – to evaluate the likely risks and impacts of an oil spill to the Great Lakes, neighboring communities, and the regional economy, and alternatives to avoid that harm.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign website, watch the TV commercial that has aired across Northern Michigan, and sign the citizen petition to the Governor's office at www.OilandWaterDontMix.org.

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