

HIGHLIGHTING VIOLENCE IN THE STRAITS OF MACKINAC: THE THREAT OF ENBRIDGE'S LINE 5

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL FOR ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY (SEAS) MASTER'S PROJECT OVERVIEW

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In collaboration with Project Client, the Anishinaabek Caucus

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PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Problem: The people of the Great Lakes region and Michigan policy makers lack accessible, digestible, and accurate information on the climate, environmental, and social impacts of Line 5 to form opinions and take action.

Project Goals:

- Increase public understanding of the detrimental impacts of continued operation and/or future expansion of Enbridge's Line 5 dual oil pipelines, particularly as it relates to Indigenous rights and lifeways
- Center Indigenous resistance to and movements against Line 5
- Increase pressure on city, state, and national decision-makers to take action against Enbridge's oil infrastructure

WHAT DID THE PROJECT DELIVER?

We completed the following deliverables, which were determined through a consent-based visioning process with the Anishinaabek Caucus.



Academic research paper* argues that, though framed as a public good, Line 5 is invasive infrastructure threatening Anishinaabe collective continuance



Executive summary for policy-makers* presents information on the negative consequences of Line 5 in a digestible format to policy-makers



Informational one-pagers highlighted key information on Line 5 in a digestible format to raise awareness at the 2022 Water is Life festival



Short documentary-style video challenges false narratives about Line 5 and presents alternative Indigenous visions for water and energy

As a group of Michiganders who remain committed to the fight against Line 5 and other invasive oil infrastructure, we continue our support with a couple ongoing projects:



Website content recommendations of information to add using best practices



Mural to convey Anishinaabe alternative vision of energy future



Action toolkits to mobilize public support for the shut down of Line 5

*These deliverables are uploaded as separate documents



INFORMATIONAL ONE-PAGERS

PURPOSE: PROVIDE INFORMATION ON
LINE 5 AT THE 2022 WATER IS LIFE
FESTIVAL



LINE 5

A danger to our land, water, climate, culture, health, and home.

WHO ARE WE?

We are Master's students at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability conducting a research project with the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party to

- Share facts about the health, climate, environmental, and cultural impacts of Enbridge Energy's Line 5 pipeline and proposed replacement tunnel.
- Emphasize the environmental, political, social, and historical context which makes the current operation and the proposed replacement project for Line 5 especially harmful to the Anishinaabek people of Michigan.

WHAT IS LINE 5?

Canadian fossil fuel corporation Enbridge Energy's Line 5 pipeline runs through Michigan for over 645 miles, including 4.6 miles of pipe which was buried under the Straits of Mackinac in 1953. (1)

- The pipeline was designed for a 50-year usable life. It is currently 69 years old. (2)
- 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas is pumped under the Straits daily; almost 1 million gallons an hour. (3)
- 95% of the oil and natural gas transported through the pipeline is sold in Canada and profits a Canadian corporation. (4)

- Line 5 has spilled at least 1.1 million gallons of oil into the Straits of Mackinac since 1968. (5)
- Enbridge is also responsible for spilling 1.1 million gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River in 2010. That's over 2 million gallons of oil spilled in Michigan alone. (6)
- In 2020, Gov. Whitmer ordered Line 5 shut down due to concerns about Enbridge failing to monitor and report anchor strikes and other damage to the pipeline under the Straits. (7) However, Line 5 is still operating. (8)

REPLACEMENT TUNNEL

Enbridge has proposed a 10-year construction plan to replace their damaged, aging, leaking, improperly anchored pipeline with a new tunnel designed to carry both oil and electric lines.

- Geological and chemical engineers have publicly shared concerns about the potential for explosion in the tunnel.. (9)
- Experts have warned that Enbridge's construction plan does not adequately account for anchor strikes (10) or geological activity (11) under the Straits.
- If Enbridge is allowed to construct the replacement tunnel, Michigan will be locked into a 100-year contract with Enbridge to continue bearing the risk of environmental disaster to increase Canadian corporate profits. (12)

(1) "Line 5: A History," Clean Water Action, September 5, 2019, <https://www.cleanwateraction.org/features/line-5-history>.

(2) Ibid.

(3) "Resolution on the Shutdown and Decommissioning of Line 5," Michigan Democratic Party, 2020, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RjqtTyaoRkDTR6g8DQ4opPe_wz76uWkO/view.

(4) Ibid.

(5) "Line 5," Michigan Environmental Council, accessed August 7, 2022, https://www.environmentalcouncil.org/line_5.

(6) "Accident Investigations - NTSB - National Transportation Safety Board," June 30, 2012, https://web.archive.org/web/20120630002212/https://www.ntsb.gov/investigations/2010/marshall_mi.html.

(7) Beth LeBlanc, "Enbridge Says It Won't Comply with Easement Revocation, Plans to Continue Operating Line 5," The Detroit News, <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2021/01/12/enbridge-not-comply-easement-revocation-continue-line-5-operation/6630978002/>.

(8) Ibid.

(9) Gary Street, "Column: Why the Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel is a Pipe Bomb at the Straits," Michigan Advance (blog), April 8, 2022, <https://michiganadvance.com/2022/04/08/column-why-the-enbridge-line-5-tunnel-is-a-pipe-bomb-at-the-straits/>.

(10) Keith Matheny, "Line 5 Oil Pipeline in Straits of Mackinac Dented by Ship," Detroit Free Press, accessed August 27, 2022, <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/04/11/enbridge-line-oil-pipeline-straits-mackinac/507506002/>.

(11) "Public Comments to MSCA," February 16, 2022, https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/oilandwaterdontmix/pages/26/attachments/original/1644926523/Brian_O%27Mara_MSCA_Comments_Feb_16_2022.pdf?1644926523.

(12) Sheri McWhirter | smcwhirter@mlive.com, "Line 5 Tunnel Could Be a 'Stranded Asset' in 20 Years, Report Suggests," mlive, January 20, 2022, <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2022/01/line-5-tunnel-could-be-a-stranded-asset-in-20-years-report-says.html>.



LINE 5

A danger to our land, water, climate, culture, health, and home.

THE CAUCUS' POSITION

Line 5 is a key issue for the Anishinaabek Caucus because Indigenous people in Michigan are disproportionately impacted by fossil fuel infrastructure and corporations.

- The Straits are a site of significant historic and contemporary traditional and cultural importance to multiple Anishinaabe tribes. (13)
- The United States government has a nearly 200-year-old treaty with federally recognized Anishinaabe tribes in Michigan which protects the Anishinaabek right and access to hunt and fish in and around the Straits. This protection is not just of the right to fish, but the rights of the fish to a liveable habitat. (14) Oil spills threaten those rights and the habitat.
- The overwhelmingly male work crews for pipeline construction projects are generally housed in temporary, transient settlements known as "man camps." The presence of these man camps increases the rates of violence against Indigenous women, transgender persons, and Two Spirit individuals, (15) and other vulnerable people.
- Enbridge Energy has paid police departments to encourage harassment and violence against nonviolent Indigenous people and allies protesting pipelines in the US (16) and other countries. (17)

THE DANGER TO MICHIGAN

Although the environmental, human health, and cultural damage that pipelines like Line 5 cause harm Indigenous communities and people, everyone is negatively impacted by the oil and natural gas that travel through pipelines.

- If the current, damaged, aging pipeline or the proposed tunnel replacement were to fail, the strong currents in the straits would spread oil across the shorelines of Lakes Michigan and Huron faster than in other areas. (18)
- An oil spill in the Straits could cause job losses and 1.3 (19) to 5.6 (20) billion dollars in damage to Michigan's agriculture, tourism, and other industries, not including the cost of cleanup.
- Decommissioning Line 5 would create 2,000 jobs. (21)
- Michigan does not need the oil provided by Line 5. Analysis has shown that Michigan's propane needs could be met by rail car (22) and the construction of new rail spurs would further create jobs. Other energy suppliers in the Upper Peninsula are already making this shift. (23)
- Michigan is surrounded by 20% of the world's surface freshwater, and we who live and thrive here rely on them both to survive and celebrate. Preserving this unique and irreplaceable resource is our job as stewards of this land we live on.

(13) Eric Paul Hemenway, TESTIMONY OF ERIC HEMENWAY ON BEHALF OF THE LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS, September 14, 2021, <https://mi-psc.force.com/sfc/servlet.shepherd/version/download/068t000000Tueh4AAD>.
(14) Kelsey Schnell, "How Michigan Became a State: The Treaty of Washington, 1836," Mackinac State Historic Parks, January 26, 2017, <https://www.mackinacparks.com/how-michigan-became-a-state-the-treaty-of-washington-1836/>.

(15) "What Are Man Camps?," Secwepemculecw Assembly, 2017, <https://www.secwepemculecw.org/no-mans-camps>.

(16) Hillary Beaumont, "Revealed: pipeline company paid Minnesota police for arresting and surveilling protesters," The Guardian, October 5, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/05/line-3-pipeline-enbridge-paid-police-arrest-protesters>.

(17) Kristin Ciupa, Anna Zalik, "Enhancing corporate standing, shifting blame: An examination of Canada's Extractive Sector Transparency Measures Act," The Extractive Industries and Society, Volume 7, Issue 3, 2020, https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2214790X20302215?casa_token=Ds07Oiq4A8QAAAAA:haApm3MNUOIMtNBhh-f72rnsu8jIXRRaQdQ6KkEAEEDCF-DRtB3D6SjC4Jy7ctyd7gHw415.

(18) US Department of Commerce, "Straits of Mackinac Research." NOAA, <https://www.glerl.noaa.gov/res/straits/>.

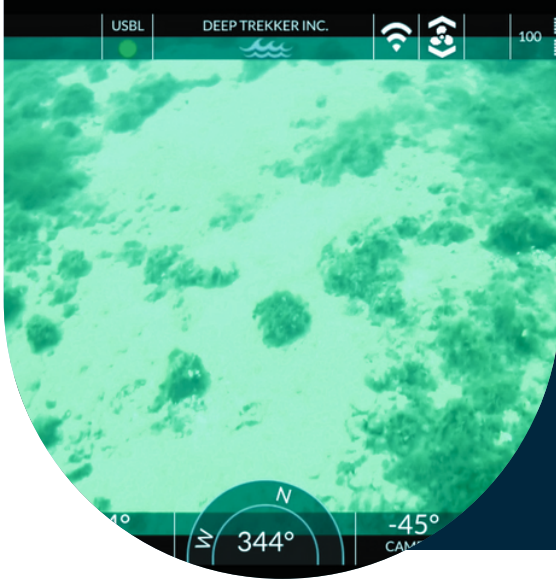
(19) Richard T. Melstrom et al., "Economic Damages from a Worst-Case Oil Spill in the Straits of Mackinac," Journal of Great Lakes Research 45, no. 6, December 1, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2019.09.003>.

(20) Robert B Richardson and Nathan Brugnone, "Oil Spill Economics: Estimates of the Economic Damages of an Oil Spill in the Straits of Mackinac in Michigan," n.d., https://forloveofwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FLOW_Report_Line-5_Final-release-1.pdf.

(21) "Alternatives Analysis for the Straits Pipeline - Final Report | MI Petroleum Pipelines." Dynamic Risk Assessment Systems, Inc., n.d., <https://mipetroleumpipelines.org/document/alternatives-analysis-straits-pipeline-final-report>.

(22) Ibid.

(23) Zahra Ahmad, "Some Michigan Propane Suppliers Switching to Rail Cars in Anticipation of Line 5 Closure." Mlive, March 12, 2021. <https://www.mlive.com/public-interest/2021/03/some-michigan-propane-suppliers-switching-to-rail-cars-in-anticipation-of-line-5-closure.html>.



LINE 5

Sacred Archeological Site Must Be Considered By Upcoming Environmental Impact Study

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ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

In 2018 the Anishinaabek Caucus of the Democratic Party discovered a prehistoric structure built by the ancestors of the Anishinaabe people during the last ice age. (1) This is a sacred site for the Anishinaabe that builds a physical and spiritual bridge between the Native people alive today and their ancestors that spans the thousands of years that they have inhabited the Great Lakes region. The construction of Enbridge's proposed Line 5 replacement pipeline puts this site at great risk.

The Army Corps of Engineers must take this into account when performing its upcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and halt the construction.

- A similar site was discovered in 2009 showing a pattern of ancient practices

- Sonar results from the remote operated vehicle (ROV) survey revealed stones that were clearly placed intentionally by human hands when this part of the lake bed was above water. (2) The Lake preserved this important site for us to see today!
- Researchers believe that these structures were used as corrals for directing migrating caribou towards hunting blinds

LEGAL PROTECTIONS

The Anishinaabek Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party is applying for protection of this site as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)

- The National Historic Preservation Act requires that the National Parks Service reviews any federal projects that might impact any TCP designated site "as well as requiring consultation with the affected traditional community."
- While this application is pending it is the responsibility of the Army Corp of Engineers to block the construction of the replacement Line 5 pipeline.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Currently, the Army Corps of Engineers is holding public comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement that it will be preparing for the Line 5 replacement pipeline. You can make your voice heard and tell the Army Corps of Engineers what issues are important to you!

Enbridge's proposed construction is dangerous for many reasons, but we need the people to come together and make it clear that the history of the Great Lakes region and the culture of the original inhabitants of these peninsulas are respected and secured.

COMMENTS ARE OPEN UNTIL OCTOBER 14!

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO LEARN HOW TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS, AND SEE UPCOMING DATES FOR IN-PERSON COMMENTS!



(1) Mordowanec, Nick, "Could an Ancient, Submerged Cultural Site Stop Enbridge's Great Lakes Pipeline?" Detroit Metro Times, April 28, 2021, <https://www.metrotimes.com/news/could-an-ancient-submerged-cultural-site-stop-enbridges-great-lakes-oil-and-gas-pipeline-26991598>.

(2) Ibid.

(3) National Park Service, American Indian Liaison Office, "National Register of Historic Places - Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs): A Quick Guide for Preserving Native American Cultural Resources," US Department of the Interior, 2012, https://ctclasi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/NPS_QuickGuide_TCP.pdf.



SHORT DOCUMENTARY- STYLE VIDEO



PURPOSE: PRESENT ALTERNATIVE
FUTURE VISIONS FOR WATER AND
ENERGY AS TOLD BY INDIGENOUS
PERSONS

"WATER IS LIFE:

Indigenous Lifeways Threatened by Enbridge's Line 5"

The short documentary-style video

This video has 1.7K views and counting. Watch it [here](#). Read about it [here](#).

WHAT IS IT?

A 16-minute, documentary-style video, comprised of interview footage of 10 participants. The majority of filming was conducted at the 2022 Water is Life Festival, an event that has occurred annually since 2017 to celebrate water and protest the threat Line 5 and other extractive practices pose to the Great Lakes. Of the interviewees, all but one are Anishinaabe persons who are contemporarily or traditionally from the Great Lakes region, whose tribal nations include the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, the Bay Mills Indian Community, the Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

This documentary-style video was identified in a consent-based visioning process with the Anishinaabek Caucus. It was conceptualized to be a well-produced multimedia deliverable that could...

- Present to the general public visions for Michigan's energy and water protection future as told by Indigenous persons - a future that does not depend on oil infrastructure.
- Present facts and testimonies that center Indigenous voices, perspectives, cosmologies, experiences, and knowledge as particularly critical to any discussion involving the Great Lakes and the Straits of Mackinac.
- Support democracy and equity in public access to quality information by serving as an alternative to Enbridge's commercial-quality videos.
- Challenge false narratives that the continued operation or expansion of Line 5 is necessary and that Enbridge operates peacefully with the consent of Indigenous peoples.
- Inspire the general public to take democratic action in support of renewable energy and protection of the Great Lakes.

WHAT WAS THE PROCESS?

Interview preparation

- Confirmed IRB Human Subject Research exemption
- Identified interviewees via snowball sampling prior to the Water is Life Festival, as well as via an option for attendees to volunteer as interviewees during the Festival
- Conducted interviews close to and at the 2022 Water is Life Festival using an interview guide developed according to social research best practices

Filming and editing

- Contracted trusted videographer Steve Gute for filming and editing
- Provided guidance on storyboarding and quotation selection

Dissemination and promotion

- Framed and promoted video on various social media channels using search engine optimization techniques to maximize the video's visibility, particularly within the first 48 hours





ONGOING PROJECTS:

PURPOSE: SUPPORT DISSEMINATION OF ACCURATE INFORMATION AND MOBILIZE THE PUBLIC TO SHUT DOWN LINE 5





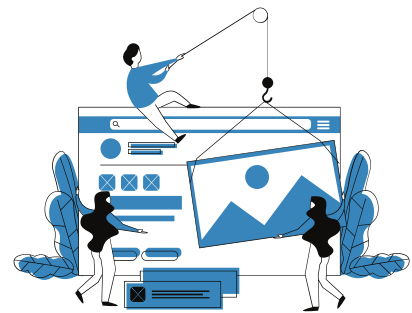
ONGOING PROJECTS

Supporting dissemination of accurate information and mobilization of the public to shut down Line 5

Image Credit: "'Waawiyaatanong: From The Ashes, She Rises" by Hadassah GreenSky (IG: @coolwatergreensky)

WEBSITE RECOMMENDATIONS

Provide textual and graphic recommendations to update the Caucus' current Line 5 webpage. These recommendations follow usability and public engagement best practices. They highlight the Caucus' position and successes in addition to crafting clear, timely calls to action to mobilize readers.



MURAL PROJECT

Commission Anishinaabe artist Hadassah GreenSky (Little Traverse Bay Band Odawa and Fond du Lac Ojibwe) to paint a mural drawing attention to the issues surrounding Line 5, which will be further highlighted and disseminated through a feature in Riverwise magazine.



ACTION TOOLKITS

Draw attention to different topical issues surrounding Line 5 that were not extensively covered in other parts of our project by analyzing the ways that they pose a challenge to building a strong base, shifting culture, and organizing direct action against Line 5. We also provided resources and actions to take. The topics covered are: Enbridge intervention, energy security, the archaeological site, and labor.





SPECIAL THANKS TO...



**PROJECT ADVISOR
DR. KYLE POWYS WHYTE**



**ANISHINAABEK CAUCUS CHAIR
ANDREA PIERCE**

VIDEO INTERVIEWEES...

Andrea Pierce, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Elder;
Chair & Founder, Anishinaabek Caucus

Jannan Cornstalk, Water Warrior; Grandmother;
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians Elder

Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director United Tribes of Michigan

Whitney Gravelle, Bay Mills Indian Community

D. Richard Lewis, Mackinac Bands of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians
Elders Advisor Director

Kyle Whyte, Citizen Potawatomi Nation; Professor, University of Michigan

Nat Spurr, Vice Chair, Michigan Anishinaabek Caucus of MDP;
Tribal Citizen of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi

Monica Cady, Sault Tribe Member; Forager / Herbalist

Nichole Biber, Little Traverse Bay Bands (Waganakising) Odawa

Lauren Sargent, Organizer; Retired Psychologist; Mom

VIDEOGRAPHER

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