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Enbridge's Aging 'Line 5' Oil Pipelines Threaten Our Great Lakes and *Pure Michigan* Economy
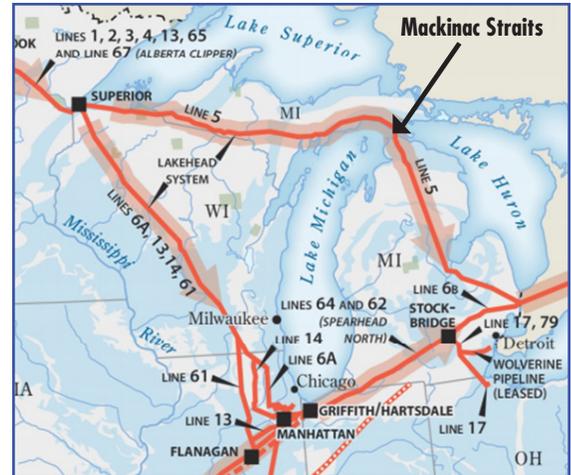
The Threat

Every day, nearly 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids pass through "Line 5," a pair of aging pipelines piercing the heart of the Great Lakes just west of the Mackinac Bridge. Built in 1953, the 20-inch-diameter pipelines owned by Canadian company Enbridge Energy Partners lie exposed in the water along the publicly owned lakebed of the Mackinac Straits.

Starting in Superior, Wisconsin, Line 5 splits into two pipes as it cuts through the Mackinac Straits on its way to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, and threatens the drinking water supply for 5 million Michigan residents and the *Pure Michigan* economy. Line 5 has failed 29 times since 1968, spilling at least 1.1 million gallons of oil. It is time for the state to evict Enbridge from the Mackinac Straits and shut down Line 5 due to the danger its decaying oil pipelines pose to the Great Lakes.

Map courtesy of Sierra Club

Line 5 is a disaster waiting to happen. University of Michigan studies call the Mackinac Straits the "worst possible place" for a Great Lakes oil spill, which could pollute up to 720 miles of shoreline along Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Enbridge's data reveal that sections of Line 5 in the Straits are cracked and dented, and that a segment on land has lost 26% of its original wall thickness due to corrosion. Recently, Enbridge admitted misleading both Michigan and federal officials on the condition of Line 5 for over three years, concealing dozens of bare metal spots and/or coating gaps near 128 anchor locations.

Enbridge lacks a credible plan to recover spilled oil when ice tops the Mackinac Straits, or when it is windy, wavy, or dark. Under the best conditions, only 40% of an oil spill would be recovered. Enbridge caused the nation's largest inland oil spill in July 2010 when its Line 6B pipeline burst near Marshall, Michigan, and for 17 hours dumped nearly one million gallons of heavy tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River watershed. It took four years and over $1.2 billion to clean it up to the extent possible.

What FLOW Has Accomplished

FLOW's team of lawyers, scientists, and communicators has helped spark and define the movement to protect the Great Lakes from a catastrophic oil spill by:

1 Forcing the State of Michigan to acknowledge its responsibilities and not rely on the federal government as the chief steward to protect our public waters from a devastating oil spill under public trust law.

2 Educating tens of thousands of citizens across the Great Lakes watershed, co-producing the documentary "Great Lakes, Bad Lines" with Patagonia, and helping build public demand for a Line 5 shutdown.

3 Researching and demonstrating available capacity and flexibility in the North American pipeline system to meet demand without using the Great Lakes as a high-risk shortcut.

4 Working with the Oil and Water Don't Mix Campaign to demonstrate that the Line 5 pipelines are rusted, dented, missing supports, and encrusted by corrosion-causing invasive mussels, and present an imminent hazard to the Great Lakes, justifying revocation of Enbridge's easement to use the Straits of Mackinac as a pipeline crossing.

The State of Michigan Must Protect Our Public Waters

Photo: Colin McCarthy

The Great Lakes contain 20% of the world's fresh surface water and are the drinking water source for over 40 million people. One out of every five jobs in Michigan relies on fresh water in the Great Lakes, including Up North tourism, agriculture, fishing, and the shipping industry. The Great Lakes are a public trust: the state acts as the trustee on behalf of the citizens. If the State of Michigan is not fulfilling its role as steward of these lakes, we must demand accountability.

In 2014, Michigan Gov. Snyder formed a Line 5 task force, and then an advisory board whose industry consultant issued a final alternatives report in November 2017 that favored a tunnel under the Straits and ignored the use of existing pipelines.

Without consulting his advisory board, Gov. Snyder announced a deal with Enbridge in November 2017 to fast track the tunnel alternative. In December 2017, the advisory board called for an amendment to this deal to require the temporary shutdown of Line 5 until there has been the full inspection of and repair of the coating breaches, to include realistic adverse weather conditions, and to conduct a more robust assessment of alternatives.

2018 is a critical year for Line 5. Michigan Technological University will lead a Line 5 risk study in 2018. The Snyder-Enbridge deal calls for completed studies and a new agreement to be reached by September 30, 2018. Citizens must continue to call for a shutdown, not an extension of Enbridge's use of our public trust.

What You Can Do to Take Action on Line 5

✔ **Sign the online citizen petition** calling on Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to prevent a catastrophic oil spill by decommissioning Line 5.

✔ **Help pass a local resolution in your area.** More than 70 communities and 12 tribal governments have passed resolutions calling for the shutdown of Line 5's oil flow.

✔ **Become a business supporter.** Concerned businesses are spreading the word about how these aging pipelines threaten our state and local economy.

✔ **Write your state lawmakers and local newspaper** calling for a plan to decommission Line 5.

● **Visit the FLOW website at** www.FLOWforWater.org to learn more and sign up for our email alerts to stay current with the very latest news on Line 5, including future announcements of state public hearings on the risk report and final decision on the fate of Line 5 in the Great Lakes.

● **Visit the Oil & Water Don't Mix Campaign website at** www.OilandWaterDontMix.org for more details on these and other opportunities to take action to shut down Line 5.

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LEARN MORE AT:
- **FLOW (For Love of Water)** — www.FLOWforWater.org, info@flowforwater.org or 231.944.1568
- **FLOW study on alternatives to Line 5:** http://bit.ly/2jBQQbi
- **Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign:** www.OilandWaterDontMix.org
- **Great Lakes Business Network:** glbusinessnetwork.com