Enbridge Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project

Supporter Guide for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) released its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project in Ashland and Iron Counties in northern Wisconsin. As a member of the public, you have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft report.

Public comment period now open until:
Friday, April 15, 2022 (date extended from March 4 and March 18)

You can submit written comments by:

Emailing:
DNROEEAComments@WI.gov

Writing to:
Line 5 EIS Comments, DNR (EA/7)
101 South Webster Street
Madison, WI 53707

All electronic and hardcopy comments must be submitted or postmarked by no later than Friday, April 15, 2022 in order to be considered. This date is an extension from previous published dates of March 4 and March 18. Commenters who wish to remain anonymous should submit written comments via U.S. mail and not sign the letter, only sign first name, or only include a return address.

Authentic comments from individuals have the most impact. If you’re looking for ideas on phrasing or interested in key messages supporting the project, information is on the back side of this guide and can also be found at enbridge.com/L5Wis.
Key messages

General:
• I/We ask that the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) promptly process and approve the permit under review needed for the Line 5 Wisconsin Segment Relocation Project to move forward.
• The relocation of a segment of Line 5 is needed in order to honor the request of the Bad River Band to remove the pipeline from the Reservation while maintaining safe transportation of essential energy.
• The project has been designed to minimize impacts on wetlands and waterbodies. Nearly all wetland impacts are temporary and will be restored.
• Without Line 5, an estimated 2100 trucks would need to leave Superior and travel east on US-2 every day (or 90 trucks per hour) to transport products currently carried by Line 5.
• The product transported on Line 5 is required to meet local and regional propane demand and ensures a consistent and adequate supply for home heating in the upper Midwest.
• Wisconsin does not produce crude oil but depends on a system of pipelines to deliver energy to power transportation and industry and heat homes, businesses, and schools. Line 5 is a vital source of energy for the Midwest.

Economic impact:
• Wisconsin based business Michels has been selected as the mainline construction contractor for the $450 million re-route project.
• More than 10% of that budget ($46 million dollars) will be spent specifically with Native owned businesses, including the training and hiring of tribal members.
• The project will bring an estimated 700 family-sustaining construction jobs hired largely from the region’s union halls and provide an economic boost for northern Wisconsin communities.
• The project will add $135 million in economic impact to the state.
• It is estimated that the State of Wisconsin will receive approximately $6.4 million in additional tax revenue from the project (including sales and property taxes, personal income tax, and corporate income or corporate franchise tax). This is beyond the $36 million in taxes that Enbridge paid to the state of Wisconsin in 2020.

Surveys/wetlands/waterbodies/threatened and endangered species:
• The route was thoroughly surveyed and selected to avoid sensitive resources, protected species, and traditional cultural resources.
• The project has been designed to avoid and minimize impacts on wetlands, waterbodies, and threatened and endangered species.
• Impacts will be minimized by the reduction of construction workspace in sensitive areas and utilization of best management practices.
• Wetland impacts during construction are mostly temporary and will be restored after construction is complete.

Construction best practices:
• Enbridge reduced the construction right-of-way in wetlands from 120 feet to 95 feet, and further reduced the construction right-of-way along most Horizontal Direction Drilling paths to 30 feet.
• Enbridge has developed plans and procedures that detail best management practices and mitigation measures to be used during construction to minimize construction related impacts.
• Examples include using timber mats to limit wetland disturbance, installing erosion control devices, and utilizing site-specific water body crossing methods.

Tribal consultation and protection of Tribal resources:
• I/We support relocating a segment of Line 5 to honor the request of the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians to move the pipeline off the Reservation.
• Enbridge is working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that are conducting tribal consultation as part of the project permitting.
• Archaeological and historic architecture field surveys and Tribal Cultural Resources Surveys of the entire route are being completed.