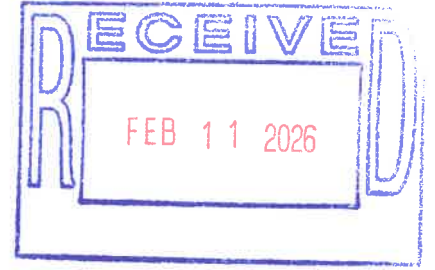




DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, DETROIT DISTRICT
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
DETROIT MI 48226-2550

February 6, 2026



Regulatory Branch
Permit No. LRE-2010-00463-56-A19

Dear Interested Party:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Detroit District, has prepared a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts from the proposed Enbridge Line 5 Tunnel Project (the Project), in which Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership (the Applicant) proposes to construct a 3.9-mile tunnel under the lakebed of the Straits of Mackinac in Lake Michigan. The proposed tunnel would house a replacement segment of the existing Line 5 pipeline (referred to as the Applicant's Preferred Alternative). The purpose of the Project is to provide safe transportation of light crude oil, light synthetic crude oil, light sweet crude oil, and natural gas liquids between Enbridge's existing North Straits Facility and Mackinaw Station, and to maintain the existing capacity of the Line 5 pipeline while minimizing environmental risks.

The proposed tunnel would cross under the lakebed of the Straits of Mackinac, connecting Point La Barbe in Michigan's Upper Peninsula to McGulpin Point in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, in Mackinac and Emmet counties, respectively. The primary federal involvement associated with the Applicant's proposed action is the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and the construction of structures and/or work that may affect navigable waters, which requires Department of the Army authorization. Federal authorizations for the proposed project would constitute a "major federal action."

In May 2025, USACE released a Draft EIS for public comment. USACE held two public meetings and solicited public comment during a 30-day comment period, which ended on June 30, 2025. In November 2025, a Supplemental Draft EIS focusing on a Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) Installation Alternative was released for public comment after USACE determined this previously dismissed alternative met the screening criteria established in its May 2025 Draft EIS and should be carried forward for detailed analysis. USACE held a public meeting and solicited public comment during a 22-day comment period which ended on December 5, 2025. Public feedback received during these comment periods was considered during the development of the Final EIS (refer to Appendix C2 and C3 of the Final EIS). The Final EIS was developed in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), USACE's Procedures for Implementing NEPA, and other relevant laws, regulations, and Executive Orders. This letter serves as notification of the publication of the Final EIS and the commencement of the 30-day waiting period, which will end on

March 9, 2026, after which USACE will issue a Record of Decision (ROD), which will document its decision regarding the project.

The Final EIS addresses the potential environmental impacts of the Applicant's Preferred Alternative, the No Action Alternative, and two action alternatives to the Applicant's Preferred Alternative. One alternative involves placement of an engineered gravel/rock protective cover over the exposed portion of the Line 5 segment (Dual Pipelines) that currently consists of two 20-inch diameter pipes that are buried in sediment near shore and rest on, or are anchored to, the lakebed. The second action alternative involves the use of HDD to install a new 30-inch-diameter replacement pipeline segment below the lakebed; under this alternative and the Applicant's Preferred Alternative, the existing Dual Pipelines would be decommissioned. The Final EIS also considers four sub-alternatives for potential decommissioning of the existing Dual Pipelines, including decommissioning the existing Dual Pipelines in-place, removal of the exposed segment along the lakebed, removal of the segment between the ordinary high water marks of the Straits of Mackinac, or removal of the entire Dual Pipelines, including terrestrial portions.

The Final EIS includes evaluation of the impacts of these alternatives and sub-alternatives on environmental resources including geologic resources, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, air quality, noise and vibration, transportation and navigation, land use and recreation, aesthetics, soils, socioeconomics, and reliability and safety. In addition to its consideration of cultural resources in the Draft EIS, USACE is separately evaluating impacts to historic properties, as well as impact avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. USACE is also conducting a treaty rights analysis in consultation with federally recognized Tribes to determine if the proposed Project would impinge upon or abrogate treaty rights. Findings of the Section 106 process and treaty rights analysis will be presented in the ROD.

The No Action Alternative is considered to satisfy federal requirements for analyzing "no action" under NEPA. Under the "no action" alternative, there would be no construction activities in the Straits of Mackinac and operations of Line 5 could continue under current conditions. Analysis of this alternative provides a baseline for comparison with impacts from the other alternatives listed above.

The Final EIS can be downloaded from the Line 5 tunnel project website at www.line5tunneleis.com or can be viewed in person at the following locations: Cheboygan Public Library, Mackinac Island Public Library, Mackinaw Area Public Library, Petoskey District Library, and the St. Ignace Public Library.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Katie Otanez, Regulatory Project Manager at Line 5 LRE@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Graser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rebecca M. Graser
for Shane M. McCoy
Chief, Regulatory Branch
Operations Division

