

## The Threat

Every day, nearly 23 million gallons of oil and natural gas liquids flow 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, Inc., lie exposed in the water along the publicly owned lakebed of the Mackinac Straits.

Line 5, which starts in Superior, Wisconsin, and splits into two pipes as it cuts through the Mackinac Straits on its way to refineries in Sarnia, Ontario, 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 1.13 million gallons of oil. It is time for the state to evict Enbridge from the Mackinac Straits and shut down Line 5 because of the danger its oil pipelines pose to the Great Lakes.

**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 Mackinac Straits are cracked and dented and a segment on land has lost 26 percent of its original wall thickness to corrosion.

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 30 percent 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 a 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 public movement to protect the Great Lakes from a catastrophic oil spill by:

- 1 Identifying the State of Michigan, and not the federal government, as the chief steward charged with protecting our public waters and their uses from a catastrophic oil spill under public trust law.
- 2 Concluding that the Enbridge "Line 5" oil pipelines suffer from rust, dents, missing supports, and encrustation by corrosion-causing invasive mussels, presenting an imminent hazard to the Great Lakes that the State of Michigan has a public trust duty to eliminate.
- 3 Determining that there is available capacity and flexibility in the North American pipeline system to meet demand without using the Great Lakes as a high-risk shortcut to pump crude oil from fields in western Canada to refineries in eastern Canada.
- 4 Revealing that Enbridge has broken its easement agreement with the state and people of Michigan and is operating illegally.



Map courtesy of Sierra Club

# The State of Michigan Must Protect Our Public Waters



Photo: Colin McCarthy

The Great Lakes contain 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water and are the drinking water source for more than 40 million people. One out of every five jobs in Michigan is linked to the high quality and quantity of fresh water in the Great Lakes, including Up North tourism and the agriculture, fishing, and shipping industries. The Great Lakes are a public trust: The state acts as the trustee on behalf of citizens. If the State of Michigan is not fulfilling its role as an effective steward of these lakes, it is our duty to demand accountability.

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder formed a task force in 2014 to gather facts about Line 5, followed by an advisory board in 2015 that is actively studying the risks posed by Line 5 in the Mackinac Straits and alternatives that would not threaten an environmental and economic disaster in the Great Lakes. The advisory board in June 2017 will release draft reports on risks and alternatives.

## What You Can Do to Take Action on Line 5

- Visit the FLOW website at [www.FLOWforWater.org](http://www.FLOWforWater.org) to learn more and sign up for our email alerts to stay current with the very latest news on Line 5.
- Visit the Oil & Water Don't Mix campaign website at [www.OilandWaterDontMix.org](http://www.OilandWaterDontMix.org) for more details on these and other opportunities to take action to shut down Line 5:
  - ✓ Plan to attend the June 12 meeting of the Michigan Pipeline Safety Advisory Board in Petoskey and urge state officials and appointed stakeholders to shut down Line 5.
  - ✓ Join us at state public hearings in July in Lansing, Traverse City, and St. Ignace after the draft reports are released on Line 5's risk and alternatives. This is the time when the state will be deciding the fate of Line 5.
  - ✓ Sign the online citizen petition calling on Gov. Snyder and Attorney General Schuette to prevent a catastrophic oil spill by shutting down Line 5.
  - ✓ Help pass a local resolution. 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.



### LEARN MORE AT:

- **FLOW (For Love of Water)** — [www.FLOWforWater.org](http://www.FLOWforWater.org), [info@flowforwater.org](mailto: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](http://www.OilandWaterDontMix.org)