

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision - Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (OTRW) Enbridge Line 5 Horizontal Directional Drilling Project at Bad River Meander

The Tribe seeks comments on a proposal by Enbridge to replace a section of the existing Line 5 pipeline where it crosses the Bad River. The proposal would use horizontal directional drilling to install approximately 1.55 miles of new pipeline at a depth of approximately 60 feet below the river.

Project Summary

The proposed project area is located 60' beneath *Mashkiiziibii* (Bad River), an Outstanding Tribal Resource Water, and includes adjacent wetlands which are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters. The project will take approximately six months to complete and will include vegetation clearing and excavation at the HDD entry and exit points and near those locations. The process includes drilling a hole that will accommodate a 30-inch pipeline with a length of approximately 8,200 feet (1.55 miles). The project may require dewatering of the project area and may require the use of additives to be mixed with the drilling mud for lubrication.



Figure 1. Map provided by Enbridge showing the location of the proposed project to replace a 1.55 mile section of the Line 5 pipeline using horizontal directional drilling to place it approximately 60' feet beneath *Mashkiiziibii* (Bad River). The red line has been added to show the approximate placement of the proposed new section of pipeline spanning the length of the Bad River floodplain.

Horizontal Directional Drilling is a method that can be used to install pipe, conduit, and cables. The process generally consists of three primary steps: 1) A small pilot hole is drilled along the path from the entry point to the exit point; 2) The hole is enlarged to the diameter of the pipe that will be installed; 3) The pipeline is pulled through the hole and connected to the rest of the pipeline.

The Tribe is currently evaluating whether the project meets the Antidegradation Demonstration requirements and the Decision criteria described in the Tribe's WQS and seeks comments on the proposed work and conditions needed to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the water resources. However, the Tribe has only received the Antidegradation Demonstration for ERWs/ORWSs and the Tribe not yet received the Antidegradation Demonstration for OTRWs. All comments are considered during the project review. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Natural Resources Director at (715) 682-7123 or nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be sent via email or post office to:

Naomi Tillison, Natural Resources Director
Bad River Tribe's *Mashkiiziibii* Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861
nrdirector@badriver-nsn.gov

Comment deadline is November 10, 2020.

Background

On July 6, 2011, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians adopted **Water Quality Standards (WQS)**. The Antidegradation policy within the Water Quality Standards protects existing uses and prevents clean waters from being unnecessarily degraded. Under this policy, each waterbody is assigned to a tier that provides a basis for addressing activities that have the potential to lower water quality. Tiers identified in the Tribe's antidegradation policy include: Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 waters), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 waters), and Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 waters). This Public Notice is for an OTRW. The Antidegradation Policy holds that **no new or increased discharges or alterations of the background conditions are allowed to Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters; however, a short-term, temporary lowering of water quality may be allowed if applicable Antidegradation Demonstration and Decision requirements are met, as described in the WQS.**