

PUBLIC NOTICE

Antidegradation Decision – Exceptional Resource Waters, Outstanding Resource Waters

Great Lakes Gas Transmission (TransCanada) Project at the Bad River

The Tribe seeks comments on a proposed antidegradation demonstration decision related to work proposed on a Great Lakes Gas Transmission (GLGT) interstate natural gas pipeline system partially located within the exterior boundaries of the Bad River Indian Reservation. GLGT routinely conducts inspections of its pipeline system to detect anomalies along pipe segments that may require maintenance. An inline inspection indicated that a visual inspection of the pipe and possible maintenance work is required at one segment along an existing GLGT pipeline. The 2022 GLGT Bad River Anomaly Dig Project (Project) is within the Reservation and in Ashland County, Wisconsin, within Township 47 North, Range 4 West, Section 24 and Township 47 North, Range 3 West, Sections 19 and 20.

Project Summary

An inline inspection indicated that a visual inspection of the pipe and possible maintenance work is required at one segment along an existing GLGT pipeline. Most of the Project, including the work location, is located within the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation. Anticipated Land Disturbance Project activities will be limited to access, excavating the pipe for visual inspection, dewatering, and completing any necessary repairs (e.g., recoat pipe, welding sleeve, etc.). Access to the Project will be from Maslik Road, south to the existing pipeline corridor, then southeast along the existing pipeline corridor

Antidegradation Demonstration for ERW or ORW to the work location. The temporary access road will be approximately 16-foot wide and 9,000-foot long (3.31 acres). One irregularly shaped temporary workspace (TWS) totaling 0.45 acres will be used to conduct the verification dig and repair if needed. The anticipated area of excavation within the TWS is approximately 20-foot-wide by 20-foot-long and up to 10-foot-deep. All construction activities (i.e., access, excavation, temporary soil storage, dewatering, material and equipment storage) will be limited to the temporary access road and TWS (collectively referred to as the “Project Area”). Tree clearing (upland or wetland) is not proposed as all work would occur within already-cleared, existing utility line corridors. All Project work would be temporary in nature and no permanent fill is proposed.

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The proposed project will result in temporary disturbances within sedge meadow wetlands. Approximately 2.959 acres of temporary wetland impact will result from the maintenance project. No permanent wetland impact or conversion would occur. GLGT will implement BMPs during construction activities. With the implementation of these BMPs, discharges are not anticipated to exceed water quality criteria.

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. All comments are considered during the project review. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the Water Regulatory Specialist at (715) 979-1370 or WaterReg@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

Lorrie Salawater, Water Regulatory Specialist
Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department
P.O. Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Comment deadline is February 10, 2022

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). 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.**

A web map of the Reservation waterways and wetlands, highlighting the tiers associated with each waterbody, may be found on the Bad River website (under Services>Natural Resources>Maps & GIS Services. The link is found in the Interactive Maps section).
<http://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=6f44c371217e4ee8b5f1c2c705c7c7c5>

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