

PUBLIC NOTICE

Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification –Superior Connections Phase 2 of Fiber to Homes Project

Superior Connections has proposed to install fiber optic lines west of New Odanah to residential homes. The US Army Corps of Engineers is evaluating this project under their authorization.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians is evaluating the submitted materials to determine if there is reasonable assurance—with conditions—that the activities associated with the Army Corps of Engineers' potential authorization will be consistent with relevant water quality considerations.

The Tribe seeks comments on its proposed CWA Section 401 Certification of the Army Corps' proposed authorization for this project. All comments are considered during the project review. The 15-day public comment period ends on 08/15/2025.

Project Summary – Notice Date August 1, 2025

Superior Connections has proposed installing approximately 159,619 linear feet of underground fiber optic lines to residential homes and other buildings. The majority of the proposed project is located west of New Odanah. The proposed project is designed to install fiber optic lines with minimal soil and wetland disturbance by utilizing directional drilling, hand-digging, and vibratory plowing methods. The proposed project will allow the Bad River community to have reliable high-speed internet connections and is anticipated to commence in August 2025.

All surface waters (e.g., watercourses, wetlands) within the proposed project corridor are classified as Exceptional Resource Waters (Tier 2 Water), Outstanding Resource Waters (Tier 2.5 Water), or Outstanding Tribal Resource Waters (Tier 3 Water) under the Tribe's Antidegradation Policy and are protected for cultural, wildlife, aquatic life and fish, recreational uses among other uses. The proposed project consists of directional drilling under Tier 3 Waters at four (4) different locations including the Kakagon River, Bear Trap Creek, and Bad River. The proposed project will also cross Tier 2.5 Waters at numerous locations along US Highway 2 and through Old Odanah Road, including Wood Creek and Bear Trap Creek.

Anticipated impacts include permanent wetland impacts of 63 ft² and temporary wetland impacts of 9 ft². MNRD has considered the social and economic benefits for this project and related impacts to public safety and welfare of interested parties.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting the MNRD Water Regulatory Specialist at waterreg@badriver-nsn.gov. Written comments may be emailed or sent by US Mail to:

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Bad River Tribe's Mashkiiziibii Natural Resources Department (MNRD)
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Comment deadline is: August 15, 2025