

Ryan Duffy email to WCMU's request for comment on emergency filing (5/10)

Enbridge is extremely disappointed that the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians filed an unnecessary application with the Court without any discussion with Enbridge. On May 8, Enbridge staff, Band officials and others toured the Meander and saw first-hand that the pipe is not exposed and there is no cause for alarm. To be clear, the Band and its litigation funders are bent on shutting down this piece of critical infrastructure regardless of who will be hurt by their actions.

There is no change to the operating condition of the pipeline. While some erosion has occurred due to recent flooding, there is still considerable bank between the river and Line 5 and there is currently no risk to the pipeline, which continues to operate safely.

What makes this filing truly outrageous is the undisputed fact that Enbridge has offered numerous plans to reinforce the riverbank as well as to install an additional valve on the pipeline as requested by the Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians. The company needs the Band's approval to move forward with these plans. However, in their filing the Band indicates no work can be done to reinforce the riverbank. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Line 5 remains in full compliance with all applicable codes and regulations established by the pipeline safety regulator, the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

A disruption in any one part of Line 5 has an impact on the entire pipeline, effectively terminating Line 5's operations in whole. This presents severe consequences for people and industries in the United States and Canada.

As a permanent solution, Enbridge in 2020 submitted federal and state permit applications to re-route this segment of Line 5 around the Bad River Band reservation. The Bad River Band wants the pipeline moved off the reservation and has filed a lawsuit in federal court. Enbridge is prepared to start the relocation project as soon as all permits are received.

Enbridge remains open to working with the Band to address the current situation at the Meander and move forward with the relocation project.

Line 5 is critical infrastructure that provides millions of people in the Great Lakes region of the United States and Canada with the energy that they rely on every day.