PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: August 28, 2020
Permit No.: MI0060278
Designated Site Name: Enbridge Energy-Line 5-Straits of Mackinac

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Water Resources Division (WRD), proposes to issue a permit to Enbridge Energy, Limited Partnership for two facilities located on Lake Michigan – Straits (south), Mackinaw City, Michigan 49701 (Emmet County) and on Lake Michigan – Straits (north) St. Ignace, Michigan 49781 (Mackinaw County). The applicant proposes to discharge treated noncontact cooling water, tunnel/portal construction water, tunnel boring machine air intervention water, slurry treatment facility wastewater, tunnel drainage, groundwater seepage, hydrostatic pressure test water, and an unspecified amount of storm water to Lake Michigan.

This draft permit authorizes an increased loading of pollutants to Lake Michigan, which will lower the water quality with respect to certain parameters. The permitted discharge shall not cause an exceedance of water quality standards in the receiving water. In accordance with R 323.1098 of the Part 4 Rules, Water Quality Standards, promulgated under Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, the applicant submitted an Antidegradation Demonstration. The WRD proposes that the applicant's Antidegradation Demonstration, based on information required by Subrule (4) of R 323.1098, shows that lowering of water quality is necessary to support the identified important social and economic development in the area. This is solely for purposes of satisfying state water quality regulations and is not intended to supplant local requirements, including land use or zoning laws. It is not, and should not be, construed as a finding by the WRD that the proposed development meets local requirements or ordinances. In addition to the proposed permit, the WRD is proposing to accept the Antidegradation Demonstration as adequate.

Copies of the permit application, Public Notice, Fact Sheet, Antidegradation Demonstration, Basis for Decision Memo, and draft permit may be obtained via the Internet at https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us (select ‘Public Notice Search,’ enter the permit number into the search field, and then click ‘Search’), or you may request copies be mailed to you by contacting Ms. Sherry Thelen at ThelenS5@Michigan.gov or telephone: 517-284-5570.

Two public hearings on the draft permit are being held by EGLE to seek additional public input on the proposed issuance of the permit. The public hearings will be held virtually on Zoom on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, September 29, 2020
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
To attend the online public hearing meeting register at: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hab7JL3oSTSPeMP7tfkwkQ. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have internet access and would like to join by PHONE ONLY please use the following phone number: 312-626-6799, and use access code 994 2525 3960#. Pre-registration is not required to attend the meeting. Individuals interested in participating can click the link above at the start of the event (1:00 p.m.).
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
To attend the online public hearing register at https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1AP-twI4Qj2NENqynJIH1g. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. If you do not have internet access and would like to join by PHONE ONLY please use the following phone number: 312-626-6799, and use access code 931 2024 4270#. Pre-registration is not required to attend the meeting. Individuals interested in participating can click the link above at the start of the event (6:00 p.m.).

Persons wishing to submit comments should go to https://miwaters.deq.state.mi.us, select ‘Public Notice Search,’ search for this public notice by entering the permit number into the search field, click ‘Search,’ click ‘View,’ click ‘Add Comment,’ enter information into the fields, and then click ‘Submit.’

Comments or objections to the draft permit and proposed decision concerning the Antidegradation Demonstration received by October 19, 2020, will be considered in the final decision to issue the permit.

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation in the virtual hearings should contact Ms. Sherry Thelen 517-284-5570, or ThelenS5@Michigan.gov at as soon as possible to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.