

## MCWC and COVID-19

The last newsletter you received was dated February 2020. At the end of that newsletter mention is made of a possible threat from a coronavirus and the need to declare a moratorium on water shut offs to protect public health. A month later we found the entire world shut down by that virus. Suddenly we were confined to our homes, schools and businesses were closed, and thousands of people, particularly in our cities, were sick and dying. The pandemic has changed all of our lives and is still marching across the country and the world as scientists are developing vaccines. Control is hampered by the nightmare that has been the politicizing of this major health crisis during an election year like none we have experienced before.

Like everyone else, MCWC has been focused on survival and the need to address new ways of doing our work. We have needed to look at our priorities and shift our focus a bit to cope with the emergencies the virus has produced in the world of water justice work as well. It wasn't hard to stop working from our office because we have never had one. We have always been an all volunteer organization with the leadership working out of our homes. We have however had to learn to meet by zoom like every other organization and rely on the internet almost exclusively to communicate the news and our needs. We had to give up tabling and speaking at events because all the events were suddenly canceled. Our direct person to person interaction with the public and with our membership abruptly ended.

Since much of our past work has taken place through on the ground interactions with real people, this has been quite an adjustment for MCWC. But we persist and have continued the work we wrote about in the February newsletter. So let us update you on what has been happening since that newsletter. It is still posted on the home page of our website and worth looking at again.

## Water Shut offs in a Pandemic

When the pandemic was finally called and it was clear that lots of people were dying already, we were told to wash our hands regularly. In Detroit that wasn't possible for thousands of people who



Photo by Valerie Jean Blakely

had their water shut off due to inability to pay the high water bills residents are given. Suddenly it became an emergency situation to deliver water to everyone. Covid cases in Detroit became among the highest in the country quickly. Government response was slow or non-existent.

A campaign was quickly mounted by all the organizations that are working on water justice issues to insist on a moratorium on water shut offs throughout the state and demand that water be turned back on for those without. MCWC was focused on that campaign until the Governor finally

acted. The People's Water Board, Welfare Rights, We the People of Detroit and allies like MCWC from around the state directed resources to Detroit and Flint to get water and sanitation to those in need while we awaited government action. Many brave people risked their own lives to deliver water and sanitation supplies.

Many people did get their water turned back on or avoided new shut offs, but there are still too many without and dealing with crumbling infrastructure that will require major investment. There is still no action on the water affordability bills submitted to the legislature several years ago. We were pleased that the Governor finally acted and seems committed to working on solutions for the water crises in Detroit and Flint, along with other cities and rural communities where infrastructure has been neglected.

Many of these problems are the direct consequence of attempts by multinational corporations like Nestle, Veolia, Suez and others to privatize water and water infrastructure. Thus our battles are joined. The People's Water Board Coalition, of which MCWC is a member, has become a strong supporter of our work to oppose Nestle and we have done our best to support and amplify their work.

## **The Nestle Challenge**

The Administrative law judge at EGLE did not take a break when the virus hit. Instead on April 24, at the height of the spiking pandemic, he issued his ruling on our contested case which recommended that Nestle be granted the permit to increase pumping at the White Pine Springs well in Ewart to 400 gallons per minute. His ruling, which was only a proposal, was sent to the Director of EGLE, Lisel Clark, who has the final say on the permit. It has been sitting on her desk ever since. Of course we were opposed to this proposal and filed exceptions in May. We mounted a public campaign along with allied organizations to encourage Clark to withdraw the permit. We filed a formal complaint with Regina Strong, the environmental justice advocate at EGLE in December of 2019, but got no response. We filed a formal Complaint with the Attorney General in July, 2020. No response and we are not sure it ever got to her desk.

**Then on Friday, November 20, EGLE sent out a press release announcing it has ruled to dismiss our case altogether and allow Nestle to keep the permit.** It's justification? EGLE now claims there was no jurisdiction to file a contested case and we should have taken our challenge directly to Circuit Court. This is after we already filed briefs and spent lots of money to determine the tribunal did have jurisdiction. Then we were told we could go ahead with the hearing, which we did in June, the Judge presented his proposal, we filed exceptions, and waited for Director Clark to make the final ruling. And we continued to work to pay down the mounting debt all these legal maneuvers on the part of EGLE have brought us.

After sitting on her desk for months, we are now told it was all a waste of time, everything is thrown out, and we are expected to start all over in circuit court. We are also supposed to work with the legislature to get laws changed so EGLE has more authority to decide cases like ours. Plus we might work on getting the legislature to impose a royalty on Nestle. This is a really nasty way for a state agency to treat the citizenry for trying to protect the natural resources of our state. For four years the opposition to this permit has been quite clear. Only Nestle's PR campaign and money as well as remnants of the Snyder administration support it.

We are not sure what planet EGLE lives on, but we currently have a legislature that has insufficient interest in working on any of the water justice issues facing our state. That legislature did not change enough in the last election. We did anticipate a change in the administration two years ago would result in some action on behalf of the people, and in cases like Line 5 it certainly has. Nestle has gotten shoved to the bottom of the pile however, given the greater emergencies of COVID, Line 5, shut-offs, lead pipes, toxic chemicals like PFAS, and then all the election hoopla. We understand the need to prioritize. We do not understand the need to rush through decisions without appropriate investigations based on information given to a new administration.

It is unacceptable that EGLE is still relying on information and data supplied by Nestle and will not even give us the courtesy of a response to our complaints or speak with our members who are riparian owners on the affected creeks. Is it because there are too many staff people handling the communications who are left over from the Snyder era and the Governor and AG never even see our work or our complaints? Perhaps its time to clean house and develop a staff at EGLE that understands the priorities the new administration campaigned on. Perhaps it is time to cut loose those who can't find a permit they don't like for a multi-national corporation lobbyist.

We have tried to convince EGLE that it really needs to conduct an investigation and actually visit the site to see the damage being done to the two creeks. But the staff has stonewalled us consistently and is still defending their permit. They claim they conducted on the ground study, but none of our members who have real data were ever contacted. If anyone was contacted, please let us know so we can ask for the results of their study.

They have claimed that we are lying about the damage, that they did investigate and that their investigation was the most extensive in their history. We know that this is not true. They have had to do more work to justify the permit than usual only because there was so much opposition. It was not an investigation.

We would certainly like to see copies of the documents that show their extensive investigation. Our FOIA request, costing \$2000, produced nothing of value. We have spent many hours visiting the sites, taking pictures of the dried up feeders from the spring, viewing the mudflats that were once a pond. We have conducted our own surveys on the actual ground, not on a computer in an office.

The only other thing that has happened to generate data independent of Nestle has been the placement of several stream monitoring devices by the US Geological Survey. This is something that we demanded all along though Nestle claims credit for doing it. The fact is that it is a requirement of the new permit and has nothing to do with Nestle's initiative. We are pleased with this development but wish they had consulted us before placing the devices. We do not think they are in quite the right locations to accurately evaluate the consequences of Nestle's pumping. It's a step in the right direction. Next step would be for EGLE to admit that it failed to carry out its own investigation and data collection, relied entirely on Nestle, and plans to get busy rectifying its behavior to serve the citizens, not just the corporation.



Chippewa Creek mudflats



Has EGLE seen this site?

## Complaint filed with the Attorney General

While the Contested Case focusing on the legal justifications for granting the permit and the public and media have been focused entirely on either the virus or the elections, MCWC decided we needed to file a few formal complaints directly related to environmental damage which was not a part of the contested case. We filed a complaint with Regina Strong, the advocate for environmental justice at EGLE. This was in December of 2019. No response. Then in July we filed a complaint with the Attorney General asking her to investigate Nestle's violation of state law and the Constitution. We sent it by registered letter so we know it got there. No response. Many unanswered phone calls later we were told she never got the complaint. Unacceptable. It's been posted on the home page of our website for months.



Maine allies face same issues

Our board member Jim Maturen has tirelessly pursued communications with state government agencies and leaders on our behalf and has been consistently stonewalled and dismissed. He had to stop his advocacy a month ago when he contracted the coronavirus and has been critically ill and facing a long recovery period. We are certainly hoping to be able to continue pressing for some response from government and deliver that response to Jim as he journeys through rehab and returns to us.

## Justice for Flint still on hold

*The following article is submitted by our allies in a grassroots organization called the League of Revolutionaries for a New America. We are in solidarity with the work of this group and numerous other organizations who have exposed the injustices that arise when corporations are given the power to control who does and does not have access to clean air and clean water.*

*In the case of the Flint water disaster, going into its sixth year, it was the actions of Emergency Managers appointed by the State, meant to sell off assets and turn control over public water to the likes of Veolia and the banks, which triggered the disaster. Yet many in Flint still do not have water infrastructure replaced. They are saddled with a debt they never asked to have for the next 30 years which will keep water bills at an unaffordable level. The health care needs of children and adults poisoned by lead have not been met. Meanwhile the State has spend millions denying them justice and robbing the public treasury to do it.*

*MCWC joins the call for lifetime Medicare for all citizens of Flint, an end to the Emergency Manager law that facilitated this disaster, clean affordable public water and restored infrastructure, realistic financial compensation, and the pursuit of criminal charges against those who deserve them. The world is still watching. The settlement offered so far is quite inadequate. Private corporations like Nestle, Veolia and the banks that hold the bonds are still walking away with the assets of Flint residents and likely being given tax write offs as a bonus. This is not justice.*

## **Do Flint Lives Matter? \$600 Million Settlement - Says Not So Much**

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel and Governor Gretchen Whitmer poke their chests out announcing the compensation settlement for the disastrous Flint Water crisis. Court battles continue with suits against two engineering firms (Veolia along with Lockwood, Andrews & Newman) hired as consultants by the city of Flint, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and a local hospital. Thus far only the State of Michigan has settled.

The \$600 million package (before lawyers' fees) is touted as the biggest settlement in state history but they failed to remind the public that it was also the biggest man-made disaster in the nation's history.

The settlement, whose details are a work in progress, directs the bulk of the funds to Flint children who were 18 and under when the crisis began in April of 2014. Even so, residents don't see how it will compensate all when there were 8000 children under 6, many of whom were left with life-long traumas. "Who will care for my child when I'm gone?" pleaded one parent. Furthermore, will those on cash assistance and Medicaid be thrown off the rolls because of the compensation they receive for being poisoned?

The announcement has underscored the trauma that Flint families continue to suffer, forcing us to relive all wounds including memories of lost loved ones.



Can there be a fair settlement when the state of Michigan has spent tens of millions of dollars fighting residents claims rather than using this money to settle? As recently as July the State fought tooth and nail to throw the case out. Over a dozen appeals from both former Governor Snyder and current Governor Whitmer have been filed to fight residents).

As the monetary provisions are sorted out, there is deafening silence concerning criminal charges. This too falls on the AG office. Who will be held accountable?? The Attorney General's office dropped criminal charges last year, and no new charges have been made.

We have not forgotten that the capitalist scheme to privatize water produced the water disaster. JPMorgan, Wells Fargo and Steidel are all the beneficiaries of the scandal, while Flint residents are presented crumbs for pain and suffering. On top of this, the residents are paying exorbitant water bills to finance the bond debt to prop up these corporations.

Our demands for clean water, water rights, comprehensive healthcare along with an end to the emergency manager system are still on the table.... we declare that the struggle continues in the courts, in the legislature, and the streets!!

———Claire McClinton, Flint resident, LRNA Water Committee

## **Nestle selling out?**

Nestle has announced that it will be selling several of its North American bottled water operations and brands. Ice Mountain and Pure Life are among those brands. It claims it wants to pursue more profitable products. We claim that the combined challenges to its operations worldwide by groups such as MCWC have resulted in a reduction in sales and too much time and money spent on dealing with our opposition in courts. They had a buyer for their Pure Life operation in Aberfoyle, Ontario but they withdrew when they realized how many government regulations they would have to adjust to and



Activists deliver letter to Nestle headquarters in Switzerland

how much opposition there would be from groups like the Council of Canadians and Wellington Water Watchers.

In Ontario, Maine, Florida, California, Colorado, and Michigan, grassroots groups have been opposing Nestle operations for years and have had a few victories along the way. We have now joined together in a loose coalition to demand that before Nestle sells its operations it return to the public any permits or water rights they imagine they have. This coalition effort was initiated by Story of Stuff, a media organization that spent some time with us two years ago and

produced the film called "A Tale of Two Cities." The film connected the struggles in Ewart with the Flint Water

Crisis and can be accessed through our website. The recent press release on the letter demanding this return of our water rights, which was sent to Nestle and potential buyers, is also available on the home page. Allies in Switzerland have just delivered the petition and letter to Nestle headquarters.

## **UPDATE OF INJECTION WELL NARRATIVE-- A tale of trends , tricks and tactical NOTES**

The more things change the more they stay the same. Yes, this adage wears thin. Yet, it forms the challenge for the injection well committee as they monitor different approaches the industry has for brine injection and other adventures. For some part, it has "basis" in law as promulgated. In reality, it can only be described as streamlining morass--a tangle of industry slanted directives. What is getting stream lined? Who is getting steam rolled? Getting a brine injection well used to be straight forward but the advocates faced opposition via Region 5 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and with the weekly well apps and permits per EGLE. So the process has become more devious, subtle, and comes at us from a tangle of vantage points. EGLE NOTES associated with posted apps used to describe what was proposed as clear tactics. In fact, the NOTES used to accomplish more with a single sentence than what a full page EPA Fact Sheet did. This is not necessarily the case anymore. How did we get here? Should we review a bit?

Three years ago we “suffered” per Rule Change 17 ( amending Part 615 of the Rules) in response to the retorts and alleged hardships of well producers in Michigan. Some groused that it took “years” to get a well approved (without any real evidence) especially those utilizing EOR (Enhanced Oil Recovery), fracturing and brine injection. All pose grave risks to fresh water and are not their concern. Profit is. Consequently, what is happening is an act both transparent and complicit. MDEQ approved Change 17 on behalf of the many producers and the virtues of “streamlining” were extolled. It is divisive. It is a trick.

A simple example of streamlining lies within the NOTES themselves. Important messages. It lies within the more “judicious” use of ACOWS notes on the EGLE weekly apps. ACOWS notes ( Application for Change of Well Status) concisely spell out the reason for permitting an existing well that is being “repurposed.” Such are rarely used anymore on proposed new wells for drilling.

ACOWS also detail the current status of drilling units out of the ordinary, such as those pursuant Special Orders of the Circuit Court using larger or eccentric site acreage and topographic challenges, etc. These do possess technical reasons, or tactics, for the drilling activity. However, the life of the NOTES take on obscure meanings and strange archiving clouding the history of a specific well, ( on purpose?) This turns into a round about means of pre approving a well that is eventually slated for brine injection likely after the current proposal fails. It only makes good business sense to safeguard the tremendous investment in a drilled well. ( millions per wellhead; zillions for fracked wells ) Get the longest use possible out of the well. One can always use it for brine injection in the end. This is surely how industry thinks. Stream lining removes the road blocks for injection wells that is somehow acceptable. They shortchange the application process in order to facilitate Rule Change 17 of the Promulgated Rules of Michigan.

Now there is also a category “record of change of well status” whereby the public learns of the activity only after the fact. As continued example is typical ACOWS noting “well given acid stimulation to enhance flow, with proposed return to production.” Why was this allowed in the first place? So they already shot the toxic juice to it, and if deemed successful then see a return to crude production. If it fails, well.. there is the final solution. Industry hopes this occurs ahead of major corrosive oxidation of stacked valves, flanges and pressure regulators, etc. As Ziebart used to say in their terse advertisements “ it’s us or rust!! “ Streamlining?! More like subterfuge.



Being successful in the injection committee is being effective at monitoring what is going on with the hydrocarbon industry. It really involves noting the trends in well permits. Propane storage; natural gas storage wells new and revamped, and adventures in CO2 sequestration. These are the three major trends we need to check out .

### **Propane Storage--a play on market manipulation**

A perceived shortage in propane is hyped by fears of market disruption. This “occurs” if Enbridge Line 5 Straits crossing shuts down. This is a marketing tactic. This is despite the fact that the heating product is most easily converted between liquid and gas. Distribution is robust. Therefore, it is readily shipped by either pipeline networks or tanker truck from a myriad of companies in Michigan. However, this does not allay the fears of market shortages. Let’s be clear: Logistics is being confused with product availability . Moreover, the chance to make a quick buck is too alluring. We have all seen this show before--in a product called gasoline with a culprit called OPEC and they were all the rage in the 1970s. Bet your bell

bottoms! We are too easily convinced by the hype and this includes the authorization of a task force by the State to “study” and yak about the “problem” ad nauseum.

During the interim, a number of below grade storage formations are being considered in SE Michigan. This has authorized the permit for the Sunoco ‘14’ Storage well in Romulus Twp. abutting Detroit Metro Airport. Sandwiched between commercial areas of Sunoco 14 and other proposed wells by Sunoco is the extremely busy corridor of Interstate I-94. Besides the typical risks to freshwater contamination from this misadventure is the risk of harboring a bomb in a populated setting! Something is amiss for safety all for the sake of “boosting” the supply of propane in a made up shortage! More research is needed. Less hype is needed.

### **Natural gas storage wells--what is driving this market?**

In concert with the below grade storage for ongoing market of natural gas is the major upgrade of storage wells in the existing storage fields of both Consumers Energy and Mich Con Gas Company (parent CO. DTE Energy). I cite Consumers existing gas storage field in northern Clare County, situated in Summerfield Twp. as the most recent activity. Home to Cranberry Lake Rd. Compressor Station it links to the pipeline network, the aorta or life blood being the 42 “ diameter Michigan Gas Storage Pipeline. This is a “big inch” high pressure system. It slices an ominous diagonal through Michigan much like the Enbridge system does through central Wisconsin. Only the Michigan system makes a beeline for the Detroit market with connection to the eastern seaboard for the USA. Lambda Energy Resources, LLC is well poised to be the major player having purchased producer rights from others within this geological Basin. Hence, a major rebuild of wells is underway in fields like Summerfield Twp. We know of the Lambda plan largely by way of MOGN ( ) and by the weekly postings of EGLE .

What is driving this major investment in facility rebuilding? Many factors largely logistical. What happened with the tremendous fire in Aliso Canyon storage field of California from over two years ago depicts the dangers of “repurposed” wells. Certain players will contend that new wells are much safer than repurposed ones. However, none of this is getting us any further away from methane greenhouse gas emissions shot into the atmosphere. Ironically, of the supposed “clean fuel” constituents, methane is the worst of the greenhouse gases. Coal is a dirty use in contrast. Somewhere the distinction is blurred-- fails to help us in smart decisions.

The adroit from Detroit, from the hydrocarbon tech industry will still contend that getting natural gas to the eastern seaboard has to be the primary objective. It belies any conversion to sensible alternatives. In contrast, it is strategic-- many would contend to even national security. Really??? In any event, keeping the storage market “successful” will continue to push to store product in Michigan’s conducive geological basins, and will link to the pipeline networks of DTE Energy, Vector, Enbridge and others for all points beyond. This always underscores “networking” in the business sense of petroleum geology. This happens for the USA in large part in Detroit metro area with major connections also to Sarnia, Ontario. During the interim, Michigan ranks number one in the USA for formation storage of natural gas, with trillions of cubic feet jam packed into successive strata of former production fields. It is amazing that there is even room for a toxic waste dump. It appears the industry is conning us in so many ways. Does it continue with carbon sequestration?

### **CO 2 carbon sequestration--how do we approach the solution in regard to global warming and contamination ?**

Industry would inject carbon dioxide forever into former production strata driven by a political agenda rather than smart tech insight. The agenda has hope of gaining some credibility with certain



environmentalists. I am a little skeptical about all of it. This can not be the valid consideration nor a feasible solution on its own merit in much the same way that venting to atmosphere can not be as well. With such subterfuge, Science needs to lend a much greater hand.

In one venture and as a small example, the National Science Foundation is awarding a 1.2 million dollar grant to study the impact of how Mother Nature deals with too much carbon dioxide. This goes beyond what is known about photosynthesis and the whole ecosystem and with groundwater that may possess contamination. This is heady stuff for more nimble minds--folks that are serious about resolving the problem and converting to energy sources that will not kill us in the process.

As stated many times in many venues, are we part of the problem or part of the solution??? Our committee is always looking for more members. Email us at [info@savemiwater.org](mailto:info@savemiwater.org)

—John McLane, Injection Well Committee

### **What We Want**

We are reprinting this list of demands which appeared in a reduced summer posting that took the place of a summer newsletter and is on our website:

*What we Want (the short list)*

*We want a real investigation by the Attorney General's office of the ecosystem damage done by Nestle in Osceola county.*

*We want restoration ordered and the permit to increase pumping by Nestle ruled void.*

*We want to be given the opportunity to meet in person with the Director of EGLE, and the Attorney General. We want to hear from the Governor. We are not interested in invitations to quarterly mass meetings of "stakeholders." Every citizen is a stakeholder.*

*We want transparency without having to spend a fortune on FOIA requests that produce no information. We want to know just how much influence in Lansing and elsewhere Nestle has bought with offers of "free" water to Flint and Detroit. Water that belongs to all of us in the first place.*

*We want a state-wide water affordability plan and public infrastructure upgrades so no one has to rely on single use plastic bottles and feed Nestle profits to exercise the human right to water.*

**Time to renew memberships**

**So much work ahead for water justice**

**We can only do by joining together**

Friday, November 13, 2020 – Press Release from Oil & Water Don't Mix Coalition

## **Citizens Groups Applaud Gov. Whitmer's Decision Revoking Line 5 Oil Pipeline Easement**

LANSING, Mich. – Citizens groups are widely celebrating Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's historic announcement today that she is taking action permanently revoking Enbridge's Line 5 easement as she puts Michigan on a legal footing to end the threat of a catastrophic oil pipeline failure in the Great Lakes.

"Governor Whitmer's decisive action today to shut down Line 5 fulfills her public trust duty to protect the Great Lakes," said Sean McBrearty, campaign coordinator for Oil & Water Don't Mix. "Enbridge has played fast and loose with their duty of care for these dangerous oil pipelines, and the governor is holding them accountable for their irresponsible behavior that threatens the Great Lakes every single day. Michiganders who care about the Great Lakes and our northern Michigan economy--and that's certainly all of us--welcome the governor's strong actions that put Michigan and Great Lakes first."

Whitmer's decision gives Enbridge 180 days--until mid-May--to complete the process of shutting down Line 5. Attorney General Dana Nessel today filed a legal action in Ingham Circuit Court on Whitmer's behalf to force the shut down. Whitmer said the continued operation of Line 5 is an "unreasonable risk," citing Enbridge's "persistent and incurable violations of the easement's terms and conditions." The new lawsuit will bring claims in addition to Nessel's lawsuit filed in 2019, seeking the shutdown of Line 5, which remains pending before Judge James Jamo.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency in June fined Enbridge \$6.7 million after federal regulators said Enbridge failed to properly evaluate dents to pipelines along the company's Lakehead Pipeline System, which includes the Line 5 pipeline that crosses the open waters of the Straits of Mackinac and through 400 other Michigan waterways.

"This is a huge moment for the thousands of people who have worked for over seven years to shut down this dangerous and polluting oil pipeline that threatens the Great Lakes and the climate," said Kate Madigan, Director of the Michigan Climate Action Network. "Our Governor has shown once again that she puts the people of Michigan and the Great Lakes first and she is looking out for our best interests. Standing up to Enbridge - one of the largest and most powerful companies on the planet - takes courage, something that Governor Whitmer has in spades."

Whitmer's legal move today also follows an Analysis of the Enbridge Financial Assurances report to the State of Michigan by financial experts. The American Risk Management Resources Network documented the state's potential financial liability from a Line 5 failure resulting in a catastrophic spill that could impact up to 700 miles of Great Lakes coastline.

"Today's decisive action by Governor Whitmer and DNR Director Eichinger represents a clear victory for the Great Lakes and the citizens and tribes of Michigan," said Liz Kirkwood, executive director of FLOW (For Love of Water), the Traverse City-based Great Lakes law and policy center. "As public trustees of our waters, the State of Michigan is affirmatively upholding the rule of law and protecting the public's treasured Great Lakes from the clear and present danger of an oil spill catastrophe from Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline."

Over the past five years Enbridge has violated its easement agreement with the state by failing to disclose pipeline damage, corrosion and numerous missing pipeline support structures. In 2016 it was revealed that Enbridge kept an Upper Peninsula oil spill hidden for 30 years, including the excavation of 825 tons of contaminated soil from the Hiawatha National Forest.

Enbridge's track record includes:

- Enbridge's negligence caused the largest oil pipeline rupture in Michigan history into the Kalamazoo River watershed near Marshall 10 years ago this July. Still, they were allowed to construct an even larger pipeline to replace the old Line 6B that ruptured.
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- Enbridge's prior track record on fines in Michigan includes \$177 million in civil penalties, \$1.3 billion in damages, and more than 2.3 million gallons of spilled oil.
- 
- Enbridge lied about Line 5 safety when it knew that since 2003 numerous bottom support anchors were missing and failed to disclose it until 2017, nine months after a report documented that pipeline spans of up to 286 feet had no anchor support.
- 
- In 2017 Enbridge claimed that missing protective coatings along the Straits pipeline were a mere "hypothetical" possibility, while at the same time a video in their possession showed areas of missing coatings and the company had known of bare spots since 2014.
- 
- Enbridge's claims about Line 5 pipeline safety were put to the test when an anchor was deployed in the Straits of Mackinac in April 2018, denting and gouging Line 5. Enbridge's technology failed that test when, despite the damage to Line 5, no warnings were triggered. Three weeks passed before underwater vehicles contracted by Enbridge could safely navigate the turbulent Straits to put eyes on the damage.

"It's now crystal clear that we must ramp down fossil fuel use to address the climate crisis," said Bill Latka, TC350 coordinator. "It's not only the scientists ringing alarms, but we see the terrible effects of our overheating climate on human health in Michigan with floods, freak storms, and a rising and warming Great Lakes. This decision to decommission Line 5 is a much-needed step to heal the environment and our place in it."

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### ***Hard Times - Hard Choices***

So many are facing hard economic choices since the pandemic hit. Naturally donations to non-profit groups such as MCWC have fallen and we have had to hold back on paying our biggest bills as a result. We cannot hold the fundraisers we planned to do this year as they involve large gatherings. You have come through with just enough to keep our basic bills paid for internet, PO box, and the potash contested case. However, we are in need of help catching up on the final bills for the Nestle Contested case which is now completed, and for the work ahead to continue pursuing water justice throughout the state. **Those who can are asked to renew your memberships now and throw in some extra if you have it.** All of it goes to cover the necessary expenses generated by the work we do on your behalf. Your Board of Directors is the unpaid volunteer "staff" and we don't take a penny of your donations. No travel expenses, no phone bills. Please consider an end of year donation to keep us going toward the debt free status we briefly enjoyed before Nestle tried to grab more water in Osceola County.

Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation

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Help preserve natural resources – recycle this newsletter by sharing it with a friend!

*We are Water Protectors and invite you to join us*

Your Donation and Membership is how we fund our organization.

MCWC is A 501c3 grassroots group organized in December 2000. Our mission is to protect our surface and ground waters from pollution, plunder and privatization through education, advocacy and actions. We work to protect and promote human and ecosystem rights to water and defend the public trust doctrine. All staff are volunteer. Your donation is tax-deductible.

Please send your check to P.O. Box 1, Mecosta, MI 49332

Or pay via our Website: [www.saveMIwater.org](http://www.saveMIwater.org)

We promise to apply your donation to the work of saving our waters into the 7<sup>th</sup> Generation.

**Please help support MCWC as we continue to support communities through research, information distribution, and coalition building. Together, we can help to stop the privatization and commodification of our natural water resources.**

**Water is Life.**

**HELP BY DONATING TODAY**

