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Mr. Chad Konickson, Chief
St. Paul District Corps of Engineers,
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The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin thanks you for this opportunity to comment on the permitting process related to the proposed construction of 41 new miles of Enbridge Line 5 through the Bad River Watershed. We have many concerns about the impacts the construction, maintenance, and operation of the pipeline would have on the environment, public safety, and emergency response capacity.

We have reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Wisconsin DNR and find it lacking and incomplete in several areas. The existing line is nearing 70 years old, and an environmental review has never been completed along its route across Northern Wisconsin.

The frac-outs and aquifer breaches that occurred during the construction of Line 3 in Minnesota are especially disturbing since this area of Northern Wisconsin has some similarity in soils and hydrogeology. The wetland waterbody crossing table in the application includes over 1,000 lines of entries. The Bad River watershed is laced with wetlands and streams that flow into Lake Superior after flowing through the Bad River Reservation and the Bad River and Kakagon Sloughs complex. Moving the existing line out of the Reservation boundaries does not remove the threats to the water when the expansion would cross all the rivers, streams and wetlands that flow into the Reservation and Lake Superior.

To assure that the best decisions are made regarding this project we respectfully ask that the Army Corps of Engineers:

- 1) Complete its own Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and once a draft is available, hold a public review period followed by a public hearing and comment period on the

draft EIS. Citizens of the area where the line is proposed are unclear what the Corps is seeking comments about at this time. Poor internet service makes it very difficult for many to access the documents filed as part of this application. More time is needed.

If comments are welcome related to your preparation of an Environmental Assessment, please see the attachment our organization provided during the scoping process for WI DNR's draft EIS in 2020. Our concerns then remain valid now.

- 2) Before allowing the proposed Horizontal Directional Drilling to occur under the White River (and many others) please complete a forensic analysis of the frac-outs and the aquifer breaches that occurred during construction of Line 3 and assure the same disasters do not occur in Wisconsin.

The potential risks posed by constructing an expanded re-route of Line 5 are unacceptable for Northern Wisconsin's waters and Lake Superior. Likewise, the entire existing aged Line 5 poses enormous risks for the region. We urge the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a full federal level Environmental Impact Statement and invite public comment.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Debra Cronmiller,
Executive Director League of Women Voters of Wisconsin