



FALL 2022

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The future of the Earth is in our Hands.

CACC NEWS

JOHN AND CARRIE WALES
Center for Environmental and Social Justice

www.caccmi.org

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

THANK YOU in the time of COVID

Big thanks to those who made contributions to CACC, and to all who renewed their membership. Our work goes on despite the cancellation of the Wheatland Music Festival and the pandemic. Your contributions of money and time are encouraging for those 'in the trenches,' so to speak.

Go to caccmi.org and you will see a plethora of useful information and links to other sites that are protectors of dear Earth, both regionally and nationally.

CACC needs a few people with some time to give, some from the comfort of your own home.

Once again thank you to those that were able to step up to support CACC's work, to those that continue to do so and the new volunteers I see in our future.

Murry DeSanto, CACC Chairperson

WATER WATCH – WINTER 2022

Michigan ready to use infrastructure funds to replace lead service lines – In a press release of November 22, 2021, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that she had released an Executive Directive to all state departments to “prepare for the state to replace lead service lines, build up water infrastructure, and continue prioritizing safe drinking water for every Michigander.” The ED goes on to stress that the program rely on Michigan workers and businesses in implementation, and that communities disproportionately impacted receive priority. The directive will help communities to implement a “dig once” principle so that when lines are replaced, high speed internet, road repairs, and other utilities are addressed at the same time.

Governor's Office (Press@michigan.gov), November 22, 2021

(Cont. on page 3)

USE YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES TO HELP SUPPORT CACC

If you're like me, you've been taking advantage of on-line shopping for the last couple of years to avoid having to go to stores. Now there is a way to use those on-line dollars to help worthy organizations. Effective immediately, CACC supporters can use their purchases from Amazon to help raise funds for CACC. Without costing you a penny, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all purchases to eligible charitable organizations. Whenever you shop at Amazon.com, use this link to make sure CACC gets credit:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2514190>. That's it! Amazon will gather up all donations and deposit the money in our checking account quarterly. Thanks!

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CACC is a proud member of Earth
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CACC Kitchen's Much Loved Veggie Chili

¼ cup olive oil
1 ½ cups large onions, chopped
1 ½ teaspoon garlic, chopped
¼ cup chopped celery
Saute above in oil on medium heat for 10-15 minutes until tender

Add:
7 cups chopped or diced tomatoes
1 cup tomato paste
2 cups water
Bring to almost a low boil, stir often, turn heat to low.

Then add:
3 cups canned or pre-cooked kidney beans
1 cup canned or pre-cooked pinto beans
OR 4 cups canned or pre-cooked tri-blend beans
½ cup chopped green pepper

Add following spices and stir well:
¼ cup chili powder
2 teaspoons cumin
¼ teaspoon cayenne to taste
1 ½ teaspoons black pepper
¼ cup parsley, dried or fresh
½ teaspoon oregano
½ teaspoon thyme
1 teaspoon basil
1 ½ teaspoon paprika
1 ½ garlic powder or granulated garlic
1 ½ teaspoons onion powder
1 ½ teaspoons salt

Add:
1 ½ cups chopped tempeh or tofu
1 -2 Tablespoons soy sauce or tamari
Cook on low for heat for 15 minutes, add more water if needed.

Submitted by Connie Beauvais



Enbridge seeks to dismiss expert testimony warning of explosion risk for Line 5 tunnel – The upcoming legal battle between the State of Michigan, led by Attorney General Dana Nessel, and Enbridge over the authorization of the proposed tunnel under the Straits of Mackinac to house the Line 5 pipeline now hinges on whether the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) should consider expert testimony that warns of a possible explosion underwater. Enbridge is seeking to strike this testimony from the record. MPSC is one of the three state agencies charged with determining whether the tunnel can be constructed. Over 950 documents have been filed in the contested case application, with an administrative law judge ruling on the admissibility of each one.

Richard Kuprewicz testified on behalf of the Bay Mills Indian Community that the tunnel poses an inherent risk of catastrophic explosion due to the volatility of the substances being moved through the pipeline. Although Kuprewicz stated that the risk is low, it is not negligible and should be considered by the MPSC in its decision. Enbridge claims that his testimony is outside the scope of the proceedings, is irrelevant, and should not be allowed into the record.

Brian O'Mara, a geological engineer and tunnel expert, says the fact that Enbridge detected methane in about 20% of its groundwater samples in the area should raise red flags. He stated that there are three possible scenarios which could cause a methane fire/explosion to happen, with the spark caused by either human or mechanical error:

- While mining with the tunnel boring machine during construction, methane dissolved in groundwater could enter the tunnel. If Enbridge contractors cannot mitigate that properly, there could be an explosion under the right conditions.
- After construction, with so much pressure pushing on the tunnel from the Straits, groundwater with methane could still seep in if the tunnel isn't sealed off properly. The right mix of oxygen and a spark could cause an explosion.
- The Line 5 pipeline itself transports highly flammable substances. If the pipeline were to leak into its surrounding tunnel, an explosion could happen under the right conditions.

The original risk assessment by the Snyder administration was based on the assumption that the space between the pipeline and the tunnel's inner wall would be sealed with concrete. That is not the current plan. The US Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) acknowledged that there are unique challenges in running a pipeline through an underground tunnel as compared to digging a trench and burying it or submerging it. Associate PHMSA Administrator Alan Mayberry stated that such construction would require unique monitoring practices. He further stated that they would have to evaluate Enbridge's plans to make sure they have addressed the difficulty of performing routine maintenance deep within the tunnel or recovery efforts when a leak or incident occurs.

In order for the project to go forward, permits are required from the MPSC, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Of these, only EGLE has granted a permit.

Laina G. Stebbins, [Enbridge seeks to dismiss expert testimony warning of explosion risk for Line 5 tunnel](#) * Michigan Advance , January 7, 2022

Waste spill into Oceana County creek goes unannounced – In May, the Detroit Free Press reported that about 200,000 gallons of wastewater and sludge escaped from an unpermitted lagoon owned by Arbre Farms near Walkerville. The facility processes fruits and vegetables, both from its own farm and others in the region, into frozen food items. The largely organic material appears to have posed no public health threat, but MDEGLE officials expect that the pollution harmed fish, insects, and other aquatic life in the Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette River, a tributary to Lake Michigan. MDEGLE notified Michigan State Police Emergency Management and local emergency management coordinators, but not local officials or the public. Impacts include odor and cloudy conditions in the creek and the Big South Branch, lower levels of dissolved oxygen, and excessive algal and bacterial growth.

The Pere Marquette River is Michigan's longest unregulated river system, with no dams or impoundments, and is known for its trout, salmon and steelhead fishing. 66 miles of the river have been designated "Wild and Scenic".

Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press, May 11, 2021

Great Lakes Water for Sale?

David Dempsey, Senior Advisor to FLOW, has updated his book Great Lakes for Sale, published by Mission Point Press.

Dempsey argues that commodifying the water in the Lakes would amount to a massive failure of stewardship. In a recent interview with WMUK (Kalamazoo), Dempsey stated that in the short run the cost of moving Great Lakes water to the drought-stricken West would be impractical. But the selling of bottled water, trading in water futures on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, and diversions out of the Basin are all harbingers of things to come. He argues that legitimizing water as a product makes it easier to lose control of how it is used.

Sevilla Mann, WMUK, 1/11/2022
<https://mediad.publicbroadcasting.net>

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