



The Honorable Tony Evers
Office of the Governor
115 East, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

September 4, 2026

Governor Tony Evers, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Wisconsin Agencies,

The catastrophic spill near Saxon, Wisconsin, on August 25, 2026, is not an isolated accident. It represents a clear and dangerous pattern of noncompliance by Enbridge, threatening public health, the environment, and Tribal sovereignty. Here is what is understood:

- The rupture, caused when an unattended truck rolled into an active work site, released at least 31,000 barrels (1.3 million gallons) of hazardous natural gas liquids (NGLs), including reported propane, butane and ethane.
- The spill occurred on the existing Line 5 pipeline, during undisclosed maintenance, but is intrinsically linked to the controversial reroute project, which has been a subject of years of litigation and concern for this very risk.
- The incident highlights systemic failures: it took Enbridge over an hour to report the spill to the DNR and federal agencies, raising immediate concerns about emergency response protocols that violated laws created from Enbridge's past failures.
- The DNR has publicly expressed it is "immensely frustrated" by Enbridge's lack of responsiveness and noncompliance. This is the latest in a series of incidents, including a frac-out earlier this year, demonstrating a systemic failure to maintain basic safety standards.
- Enbridge and federal oversight officials with the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration blocking state officials from the site is a dangerous escalation of secrecy, risk and defiance that cannot be ignored.

It is imperative that all responding Wisconsin agencies and Governor Evers immediately take action:

Immediate Permit Revocation: Under Wisconsin law, the DNR holds clear authority to terminate permits for "substantial noncompliance" or when activities could "endanger human health or the environment." We demand the immediate revocation and termination of all permits for Enbridge's Line 5 expansion project. The window to act is closing, and every day of delay reinforces a "business-as-usual" status quo for the company. We call on Governor Evers to use the authority he already has.

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Emergency Response and Investigation - Independence and Transparency: Demand and oversee an independent investigation into the root cause, site conditions, and Enbridge's safety protocols. The state must ensure the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is engaged and that investigations are not left solely to the company or PHMSA.

Monitoring and Public Health: Ensure that state agencies are actively managing independent air, water, and groundwater monitoring. No part of the response or ongoing monitoring should rely solely on data provided by Enbridge. The public must know what specific compounds are being measured, where, and by whom. No responding agencies or public officers should enter non-disclosure agreements.

Sincerely,

National Wildlife Federation
Clean Water Action Michigan
FLOW Water Advocates
Great Lakes Business Network
Groundwork Center
Michigan Climate Action Network
Michigan League of Conservation Voters
Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council
Oil and Water Don't Mix

CC: National Transportation Safety Board

