



WHITE EARTH RESERVATION

CHAIRMAN Michael A. Fairbanks SECRETARY-TREASURER Leonard Alan Roy
DISTRICT I Raymond Auginaush, Sr. DISTRICT II Kathy Goodwin DISTRICT III Cheryl "Annie" Jackson

June 18, 2021

Cathy Chavers
President
Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
15542 State Hwy 371
Cass Lake, MN 56633

Re: Request for Agenda Addition at Special TEC Meeting

Dear President Chavers:

We write to you today regarding an urgent matter, which we hope to discuss at next week's special Tribal Executive Committee. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued a construction dewatering permit on June 4, 2021, which increases the amount of water Enbridge may displace during construction of Line 3 from just over 500 million gallons to almost 5,000,000,000 gallons. This permit was issued with no consultation with the White Earth Reservation.

Given we find ourselves in a moderate drought, with higher than average temperatures and lower than average precipitation, displacing this amount of water will have a direct detrimental impact on the 2021 wild rice crop. Contractors have been witnessed removing water from Upper Rice Lake, and Lower Rice Lake is already at dangerously low levels. As you know, the White Earth people rely heavily on these waters every year for our wild rice harvest.

We hope to be able to present a resolution requesting the State Agencies rescind their permit issued on June 4, 2021 and engage in meaningful consultation with the impacted tribal governments before considering the permit in the future. Please let us know as soon as possible if this will be feasible to bring forward at next week's meeting.

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Michael Fairbanks
Chairman, White Earth RBC

Leonard Alan Roy
Secretary/Treasurer, White Earth RBC

Cc: White Earth RBC Members
Gary Frazer
Legal