E23979 US Highway 2 East Watersmeet, MI 49969 906-358-4551 TDD: 906-358-0289

Fax: 906-358-4000

File Code:

1560; 2720

Date:

August 8, 2025

Watersmeet Township P.O. Box 306 Watersmeet, MI 49969

Dear Supervisor Clark:

We have received a proposal from Enbridge to conduct maintenance activities on their oil and gas pipeline that will require access across the National Forest on the Bessemer, Iron River, and Watersmeet Ranger Districts for which we are seeking your input. Because these maintenance activities are already allowed in accordance with Enbridge's existing special use permit, the proposed action would result in a Forest Road special use authorization for access. This authorization will not exceed one year. Accordingly, no NEPA decision memo is required.

They are proposing to conduct eight maintenance digs at seven different locations on National Forest System lands. The permit will authorize access at five locations to access their permitted right-of-way during the fall of 2025, two of the locations the Forest Service doesn't have jurisdiction.

At 7 of the locations, the work is proactive mitigation to ensure the integrity of the system, and the 8th location is a standard integrity maintenance investigation. This maintenance will require excavating a 20' by 20' area to reach a section of their pipeline to conduct the maintenance. Once the work is completed, they will restore all disturbed work areas to an acceptable condition. All work will occur within their permitted 60' right-of-way. This project will result in no trees being removed but brushing will be needed within the right-of-way to access the locations.

The list below indicates the locations of the proposed access:

Section 28, Township 47 North, Range 44 West, Gogebic County. FR9663. (Map 1)

Section 23, Township 45 North, Range 40 West, Gogebic County. Access from

County Road. (Map 2)

Section 34, Township 45 North, Range 39 West, Gogebic County. Access from

private property. (Map 3)

Section 29, Township 45 North, Range 39 West, Gogebic County. FR 3997. (Map 4)

Section 8, Township 44 North, Range 38 West, Gogebic County. FR 3978. (Map 5)

Section 23, Township 44 North, Range 38 West, Gogebic County. FR3940. (Map 6)

Section 23, Township 44 North, Range 37 West, Iron County. FR3912. (Map 7)





If you have comments about this proposed action, please submit them no later than September 12, 2025. Comments should be specific to the proposed project name "2025 Enbridge Integrity Maintenance Digs Proposal" and, if necessary, specify the portion of the project area. These comments will be reviewed by the Responsible Official and used to determine whether there are any unresolved conflicts with the proposed action. Comments may be addressed to: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Trevor Hahka, E23979 US-2 East, Watersmeet, MI 49969. Comments may alternately be sent by email to trevor.hahka@usda.gov or by fax to (906) 358-4000.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact Trevor Hahka, District Ranger, at (906) 358-4014.

Sincerely,

TREVOR HAHKA District Ranger

Enclosures: Maps













