



The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

June 22, 2021

The Honorable Tim Walz
Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Request for Rescinding of DNR Dewatering Permit

Dear Governor Walz:

I write to you today on behalf of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe regarding the Water Appropriation Permit Amendment No 2018-3420 (Construction Dewatering) that was issued by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on June 4, 2021 pursuant to Minnesota Statute §103G.271. The White Earth Reservation was not given sufficient notice, nor did the Department of Natural Resources engage in consultation with the White Earth Reservation in violation of Executive Order 19-24.

The Permit Amendment increases the amount of water that the Enbridge Line 3 Replacement Project may displace from some 510.5 million gallons to 4,982 billion gallons. This is a tenfold increase in the originally approved water appropriation permit. While there was a conversation between a White Earth staff person and a DNR staff person, there was no attempt made at a government-to-government consultation prior to issuing this permit on June 4, 2021.

Given the high temperatures and the low precipitation this season, northern Minnesota is in a moderate draught. Water levels are already dangerously low and displacing this many gallons of water will undoubtedly have a detrimental impact on our wild rice, which is our most sacred food. Time is of the essence, and I ask that you direct the Department of Natural Resources to rescind Water Appropriation Permit Amendment No. 2018-3420 until such time as the Department consults with the White Earth Reservation and all other impacted tribes as contemplated by Executive Order 19-24.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Miigwech,

Catherine J. Chavers
President

Administration
218-335-8581
Toll Free: 888-322-7688
Fax: 218-335-8496
Home Loan
218-335-8582
Fax: 218-335-6925
Economic Development
218-335-8583
Fax: 218-335-8496
Education
218-335-8584
Fax: 218-335-2029
Human Services
218-335-8586
Fax: 218-335-8080