

FINAL PROJECT:

ESI
Fellowship


✿ A LOCAL DIVE INTO
ENVIRONMENTAL
RACISM

Norijah, Stacy, and
Margaret




What is Environmental Racism?








- Environmental racism references the impact that harmful environmental decisions have on communities of color.
 - Zoning regulations, urban planning, & placement of landfills and hazardous waste plants.
 - The term is dependent on a segregated city and decision makers viewing certain neighborhoods as disposable.
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Environmentalism and racism are intrinsically connected and this distinction needs to be a priority when addressing any issues of sustainability



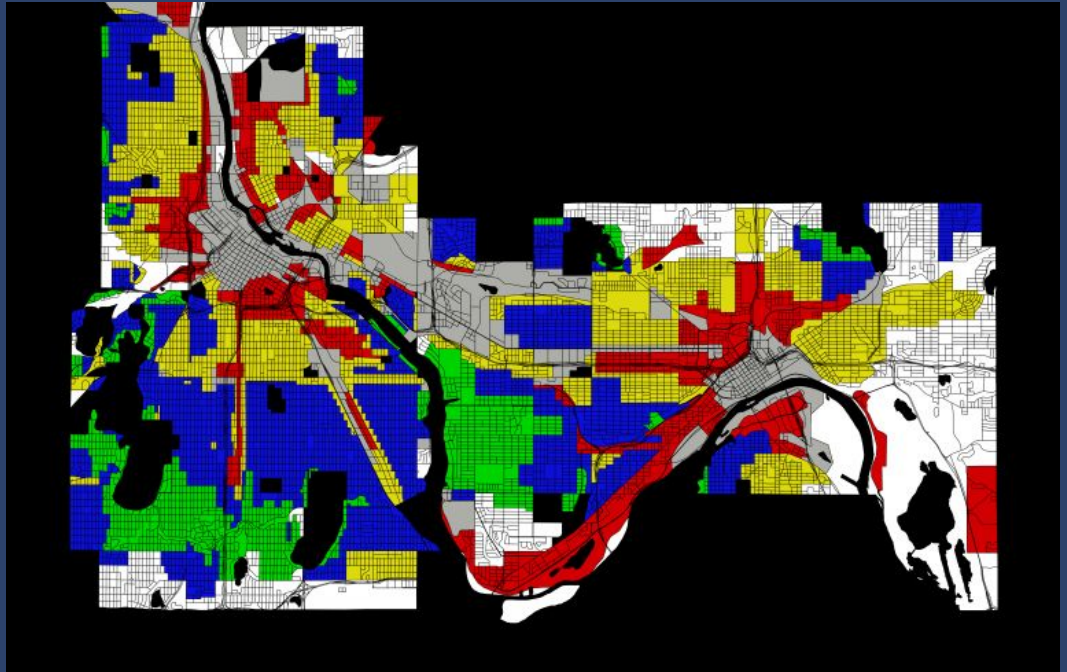


Environmental Justice:

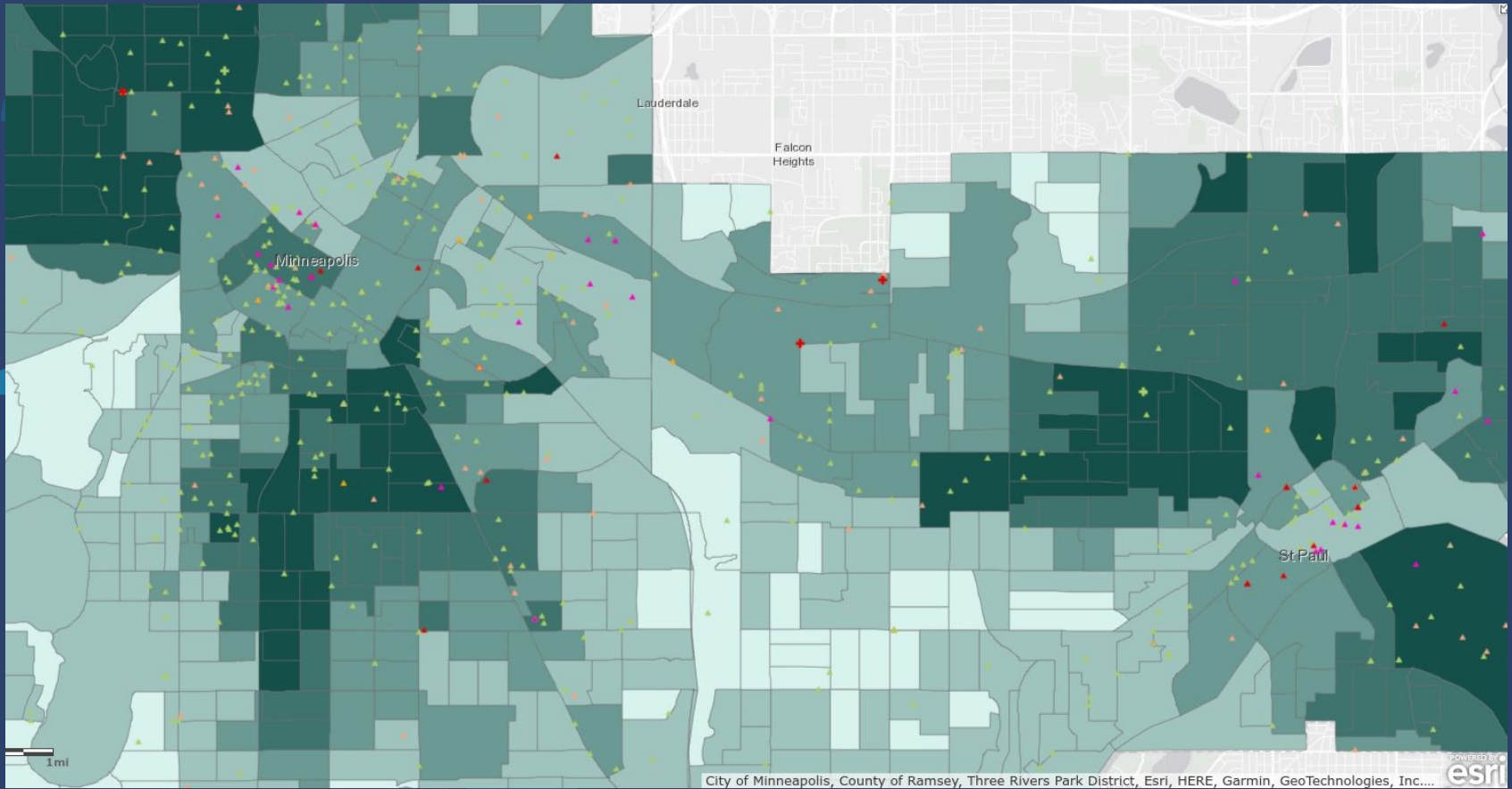
- Environmental Justice is a lense that centers racism and socio-economic issues within climate action
 - Addresses the harmful utilization of land belonging to marginalized communities by the government and corporations
 - Ideally works to create:
 - Equal access to the decision making process
 - An equal degree of protection from environmental and health hazards
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Redlining:

- A rating process created in 1934 to encourage home mortgages.
- Resulted in segregated neighborhoods.
- Devalued homes and widened America's wealth gap.



Blue: best, Green: still desirable, Yellow: definitely declining, Red: Hazardous, Grey/White: non-residential



CEED Environmental Justice Atlas

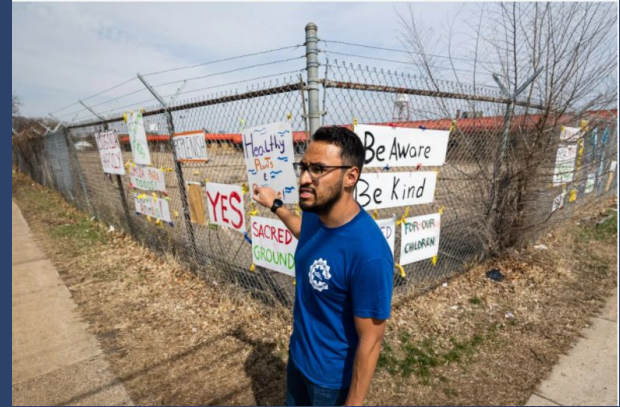
Case Study One:

Norijah

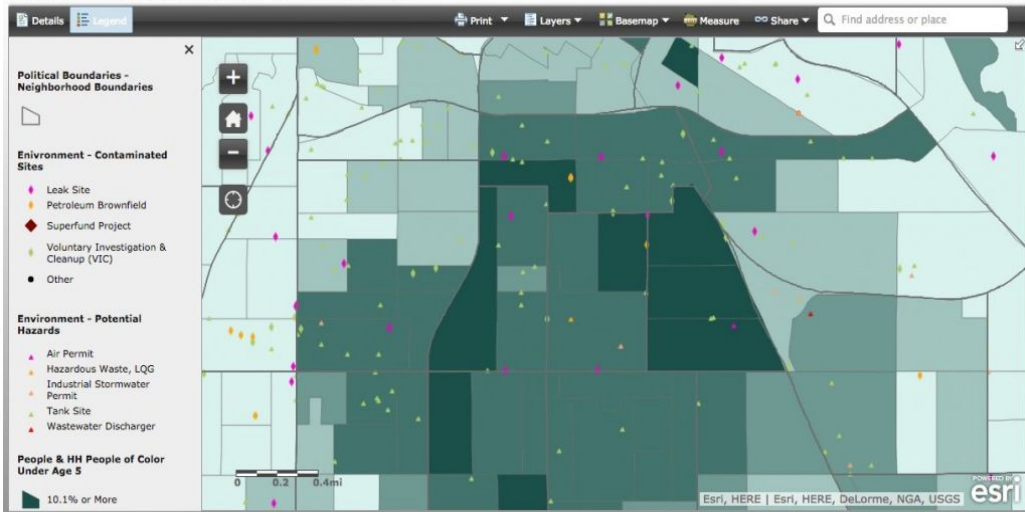
North Minneapolis Air Quality



The picture on your right is Joe Vital a protester against North Metal



CEED Environmental Justice Atlas



This map shows

All the incident in north minneapolis
like leaks , clean ups ,hazard waste
and etc

<http://ceed.org/twin-cities-environmental-justice-mapping-tool-released>

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Case Study Two:

Stacy

East Phillips Neighborhood Urban Farm



A Community: East Phillips

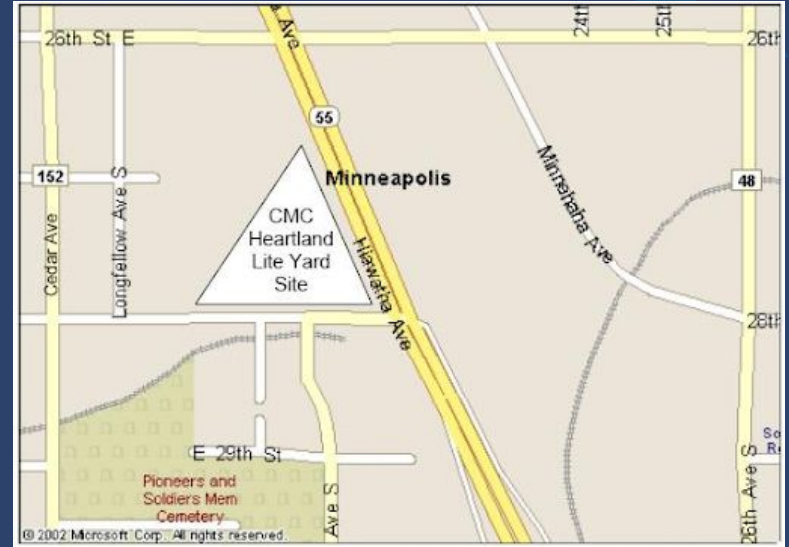
- One of the most diverse neighborhoods in the state of Minnesota
- Over 80% of their nearly 5,000 residents identify as people of color.
- Home to a large East African, Latino, African American, and Indigenous population.
- East Phillips is the cultural intersection for people of many unique backgrounds that has fostered a community centered around its diversity.



<https://eastphillips-epic.com/>

A History of Pollution

Neighboring the schools and homes of East Phillips residents, a 5-acre plot of land on the corner of 28th St and Hiawatha Ave, colloquially "**the Arsenic Triangle**", was deemed a public health hazard in 2000. In the mid-20th century, a chemical plant processing technical arsenic used this site as an underground storage unit for its poisonous waste.



<https://lawandinequality.org/2022/05/31/the-arsenic-triangle-of-south-minneapolis/>


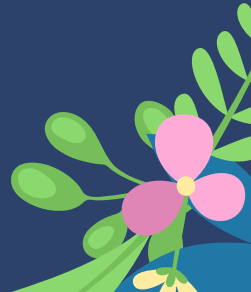



CLICK [HERE](#) to read the FULL 2008 Soil Assessment





Continued...

In 1994, the Hiawatha Light Rail Corridor began construction and unveiled the dangerous chemicals intoxicating the soil. After testing soil samples from the surrounding neighborhood, over 600 properties within close proximity were found to contain unsafe levels of arsenic contamination. The site, now known as the CMC Heartland Lite Yard was excavated in 2005,



It doesn't end there...

East Phillips is still burdened by pollution. Within the same triangle exists **Smith Foundry** and **Bituminous Roadways** (an asphalt mixing plant). Both industries continue to pump out massive amounts of smoke, ash, dust, and other particles into the same air that East Phillips residents breathe.

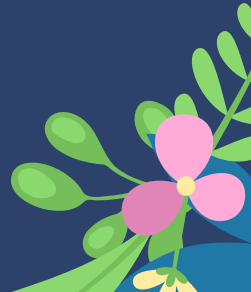






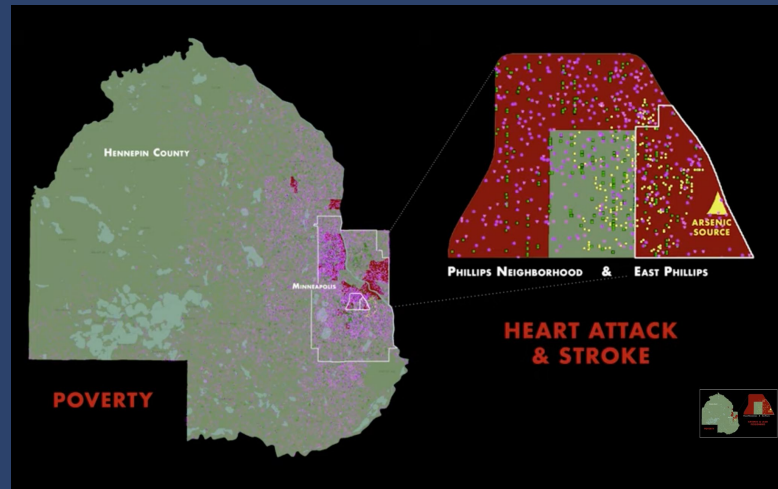
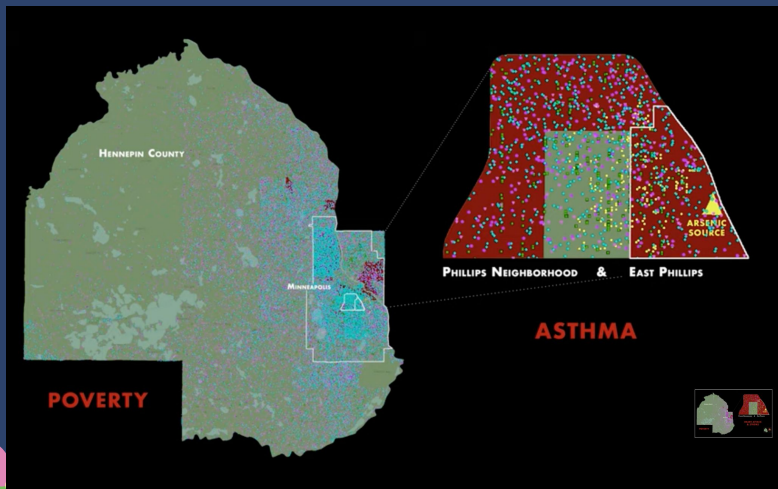
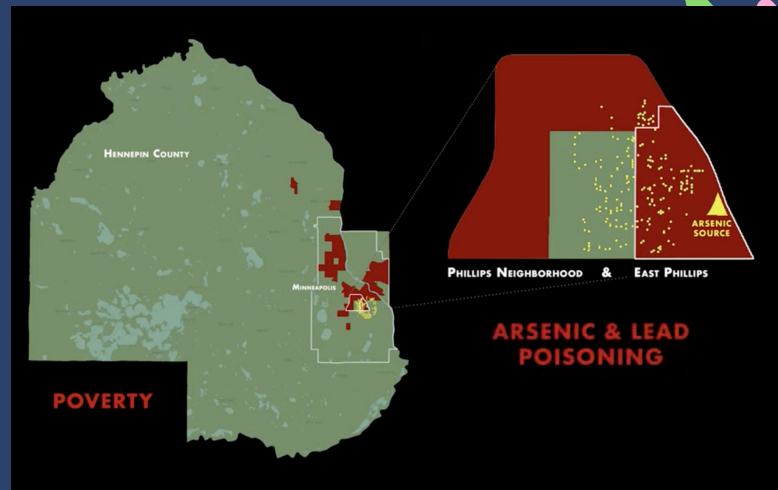
https://www.change.org/p/mayor-frey-and-minneapolis-city-council-return-roof-depot-to-east-phillips?original_footer_petition_id=25996033&algorithm=promoted&source_location=petition_footer&grid_position=7&pt=AVBldGI0aW9uAlafhQEAAAAAX718cHT1MapiZjA5OGU0MQ%3D%3D



The Impact

The effects of the pollution have left a dangerous mark on the neighborhood. East Phillips experiences a large disparity in the health of its residents in comparison to the rest of the city. The amalgamation of **arsenic pollution, lead contamination, traffic pollution, and air pollution** (including smoke, dust, and metal debris) from the industrial sources have had fatal effects. Issues such as **asthma, heart conditions, and diabetes** are prevalent in alarming rates.





The City's Agenda

The city plans to demolish the building sitting atop the Arsenic Triangle known as the Roof Depot. It would be replaced by a new facility for Minneapolis Public Works. Public Works would relocate entirely to East Phillips from their current Northeast Minneapolis space.






<https://sahanjournal.com/climate/minneapolis-urban-farm-east-phillips-vote/>



What does this look like?

- A storage yard for sewers, water pipes, manhole covers, hydrants, hot mix asphalt, and diesel trucks
- Center for maintenance operations, fleet services, and water distribution
- A four-story parking garage for their training facility

Not only would the construction and demolition release the arsenic currently trapped below the building, but it would lead to an even larger increase in industrial pollution at the center of one of cities most overburdened communities.



A Different Vision...

Lead by the East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI), the community has an alternative vision. Instead of destroying the Roof Depot, they plan to repurpose the 230,000 square foot structure into a sustainable community-led indoor urban farm.


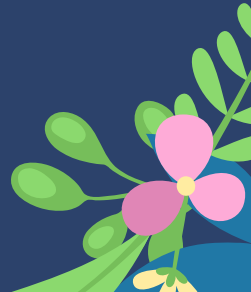



<https://mndaily.com/263221/news/south-mpls-residents-sue-city-to-turn-warehouse-into-urban-farm/>



A Community Space

The space would be so much more than just an indoor farm. It would become a multi-purposeful community complex :

- Solar panels, aquaponics, and greenhouses
 - Small business opportunities such as cultural markets, a bicycle shop, and a youth-led cafe
 - Communal spaces and kitchens for meetings and gatherings
 - 28 two-bedroom apartments for affordable housing
 - 750-1000 new jobs
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All of these features and more would contribute to reducing pollution in the neighborhood, provide clean energy, produce entrepreneurial opportunities, allow for economic growth, and become a center hub for East Phillips residents.





Justice for East Phillips

EPNI has engaged in a multi-year battle with the city for control over Roof Depot. East Phillips is one of the lowest income and overburdened areas in the city. The city has taken advantage of this community and continues to put the residents in danger. Wealthier, less diverse neighborhoods do not face the same unfair environmental issues. You can [donate to EPNI](#) on their website. Supporting the fight for the Urban Farm means supporting the fight for environmental justice.





A Conversation with EPNI...

To learn more about the project and hear directly from the leaders of EPNI, I interviewed Dean Dovolis and Cassandra Holmes, board president and vice president, respectively.



Case Study Three:

Margaret

Enbridge: Line 3 & 5



Tar sands pipelines:

- The tar sands industry is largely recognized as harmful and unnecessary.
- Every step of the process risks environmental and societal harm.
- Enbridge is one of the largest proponents of the tar sands economy
 - Operate out of Canada
 - Responsible for the largest inland oil spill in US history

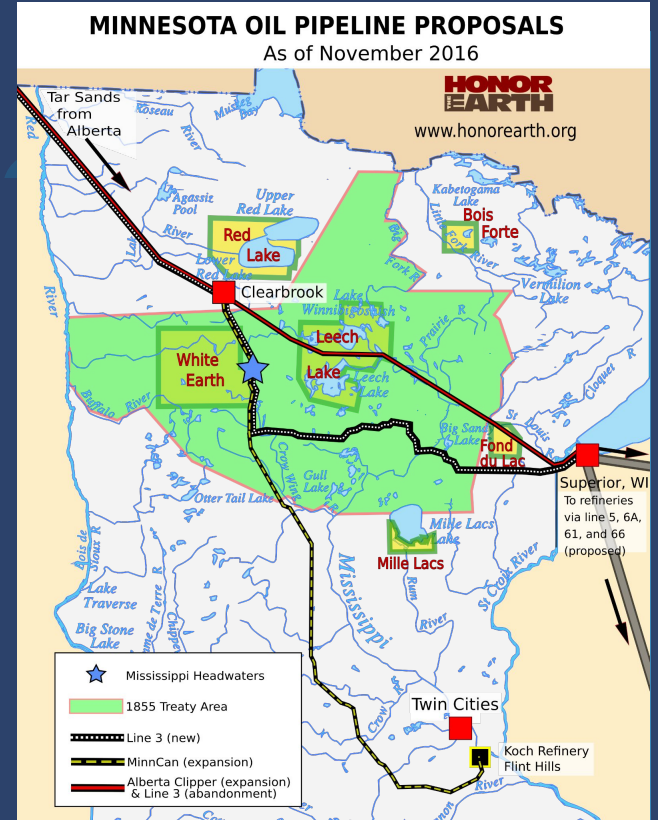


(Smithsonianmag.com)

Line 3:

Overview

- The expansion of an existing tar sands pipeline
- Carries near a million barrels of tar sands from Alberta, Can to Superior, WI daily.
- Contributes more to Climate change than Minnesota entire economy





Line 3:

Where are we today?

- Despite 6 years of resistance by scientists, indigenous activists, departments of Minnesota's government, and local organizers, Line 3 is fully operational
- The fight to stop Line 3 might have been unsuccessful but it created groundwork for other movements to build off of.
 - Community and personal connections
 - Spread awareness of systemic issues
 - Intersectional



Tribal sovereignty:

- Tribes are recognized by Federal Indian Law as “nations within” America. This means that they have a mutually recognized right to self-governance.
 - Treaties that established this, though through the threat of genocide, secured hunting, land, and water rights for native tribes.




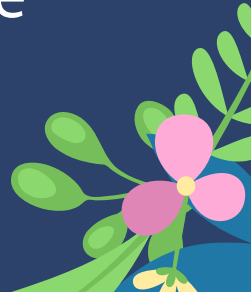
Indigenous sovereignty: The undying recognition and importance of native language, spirituality, and relationships with both land and people regardless of the nation-states actions.



Community organizing:

“80% of biodiversity left on Earth is on Indigenous land”

68,000 people participated in Line 3 hearings.
94% opposed the Pipeline

- Environmental Justice is dependent on an intersectional view of climate change.
 - The leaders of Line 3 & Line 5 opposition are native organizers.
 - Any change coming from their work will have a positive impact on the communities being affected on the ground.
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Intersectional issues:

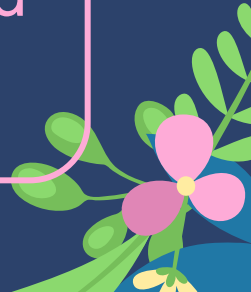
Farming & Labor Issues

Regulatory Capture &
Corporate Interests



Police brutality and
corruption

Missing & Murdered
Indigenous women and
Two Spirit



Line 5:

- What is it?
- Timeline
- Environmental & Economic Impacts
- Action
- A conversation with an organizer

What is it?

- A currently functioning pipeline, operated by Enbridge Energy, that transports petroleum from Superior, WI to Sarnia, Ontario.
 - It has been operational since 1953 and is now running on antiquated material with a history of oil spills.
 - Risks tribal land, 400 bodies of freshwater, and surrounding farmland.
 - Runs through The Straits of Mackinac
- Enbridge continuously lacks transparency and fails to prioritize environmental factors.

Timeline:

Granted
Easement
and
constructed
1953:

Line 5 reaches
its expiration
date
2003:

Michigan
Pipeline Safety
Board created
2015:

*People of
Michigan v.
Enbridge*
2019:

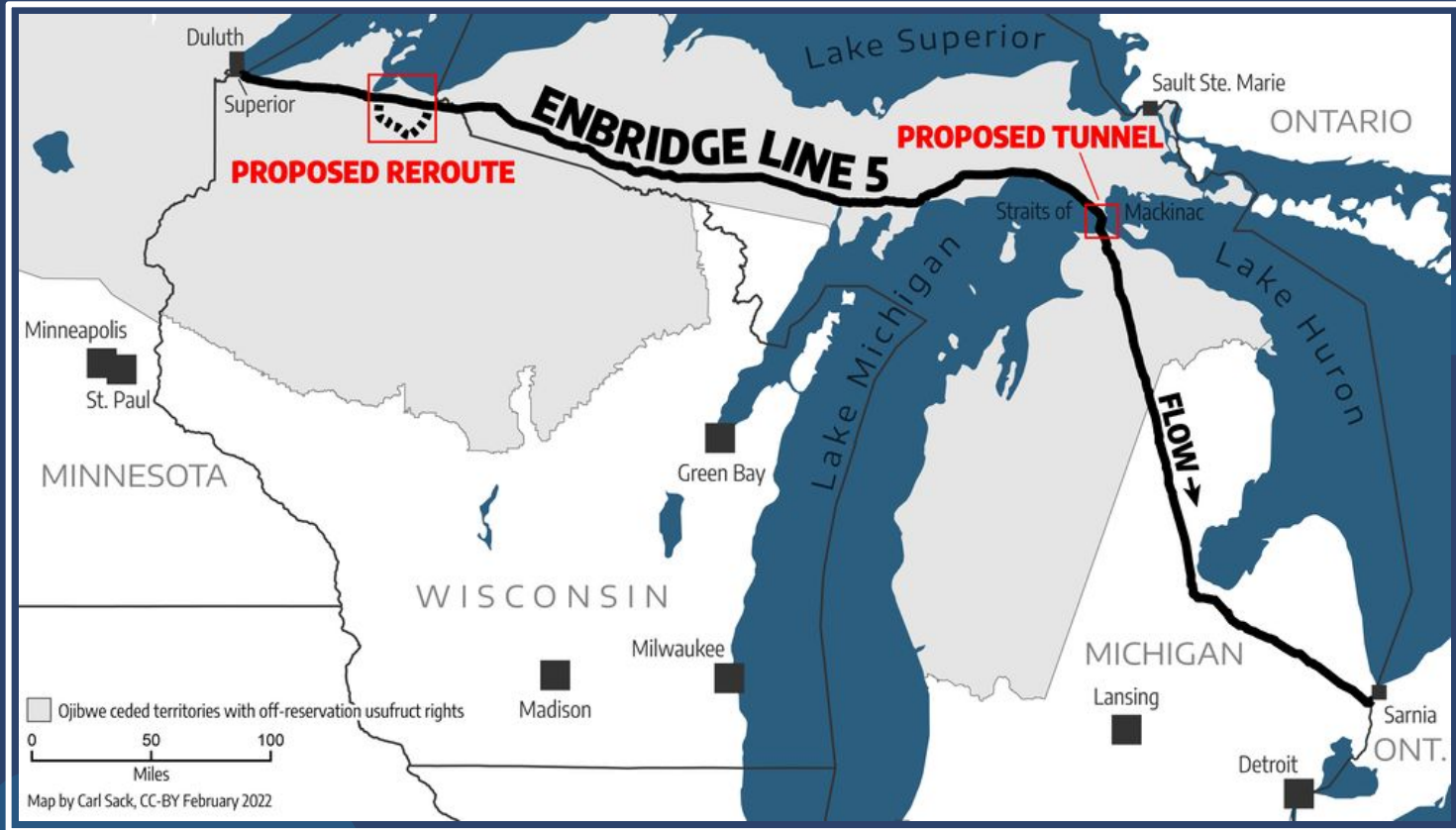
Today

1963:
First evidence of
non-compliance
with the
easement

2013:
Easement with
Bad River Band
expires, Line 5
still in operation

2018:
Mackinac
Straits Corridor
Authority (PA
359)




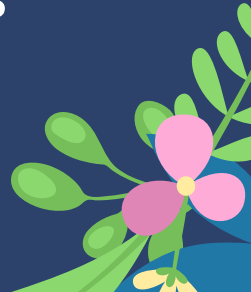

2020:
Original
easement
terminated by
Gov. Whitmer



(<https://www.stoline3.org/line5>)

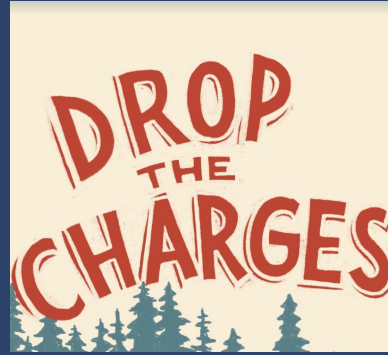


Environmental Factors:

- Transports 22 million gallons of crude oil and natural gas liquids every day
 - Since 1968, there have been more than 30 spills.
 - 1.1 million gallons of oil have spilled
 - Line 5 risks irreparable damage to The Great Lakes.
 - Sources of freshwater, agriculture, fishing, & wildlife
 - The pipeline operates in the territory of tribal nations harming native sovereignty, safety, and spirituality.
 - Violates past treaties
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Action:

- Stay up to date & get involved yourself
 - Get connected with organizations
- Vote for legislators who commit to climate justice
- Donate to Bail Funds
- Keep talking about it!



[Donation and resource page-Drop Line 3 Charges](#)



[Reject Line 5- Facebook](#)

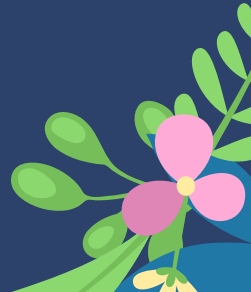






[Line 5 action page-Ganawendan Nibi](#)



Talking with an organizer:

One of the unique aspects in the fight against Line 3 and 5 is the emphasis on community organizing. I talked to Maddie Miller, FMR's director of grassroots organizing, about Line 3 and her own experiences as an organizer.



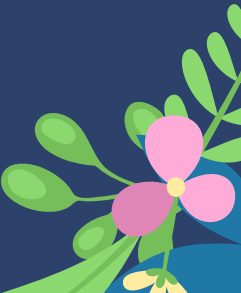


Sources-Environmental Justice

[Environmental Racism-University of Utah](#)

[Map of twin cities redlining-streets.mn](#)

[CEED Environmental Justice Atlas](#)





SOURCES - EPNI

<https://www.eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org/what-is-it/>

<https://lawandinequality.org/2022/05/31/the-arsenic-triangle-of-south-minneapolis/>

<https://www.eastphillipsneighborhoodinstitute.org/our-board-members/>

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<https://sahanjournal.com/climate/east-phillips-pollution-urban-farm-proposal/>

<https://www.startribune.com/in-minneapolis-s-arsenic-triangle-east-phillips-residents-ask-council-for-a-greener-future/600087770/>

<https://12ft.io/proxy?q=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.startribune.com%2Fcity-equity-vow-witers-in-urban-farm-dispute%2F600167627%2F>





SOURCES – Line 3 & 5

[Stop Line 3-Stopline3.org](#)

[What is: Indigenous Sovereignty and Tribal Sovereignty | Indigenous Environmental Network](#)

[10 Threats from the Canadian Tar Sands Industry | NRDC](#)

[The Study Guide-Stopline3.org](#)

[Line 5 | Sierra Club](#)

[Line 5: A History | Clean Water Action](#)

[Line 5: A Timeline of a Ticking Bomb | Clean Water Action](#)

[Shut Down Line 5-Stopline3.org](#)



SOURCES - North Minneapolis air quality



<http://ceed.org/twin-cities-environmental-justice-mapping-tool-released/>



<https://sahanjournal.com/climate/climate-environmental-justice-most-important-stories-2021-sahan-journal/>

