



## Cheboygan County drain commissioner says he's appealing Genesee County water withdrawal permit

Posted by Ron Fonger | The Flint Journal September 17, 2009 18:00PM

The Cheboygan County drain commissioner says he's filed an appeal to block Genesee County from constructing a new water pipeline to Lake Huron.

Cheboygan Drain Commissioner Dennis Lennox said he filed the appeal with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Thursday, but The Flint Journal could not immediately confirm the filing with the state.

The DEQ issued the water withdrawal permit last month, but Lennox said state law allows for appeals. He said his appeal reiterated the objections of his county, the city of Detroit, environmental groups, and the city of Sarnia in Ontario.

"State regulators failed to exercise dull diligence and proper scrutiny when they approved Genesee County's proposal on a Friday afternoon in August," Lennox said in a news release. "This troubling pipeline will have untold environmental consequences if it is allowed to continue."

Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright said he had not seen the appeal and would not comment on the issue Thursday.

Genesee County has been working to form a water authority that would own the proposed pipeline. The new authority could free the communities that join it from continuing to purchase Lake Huron water pumped here by the city of Detroit.

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