

Notice of
Pipeline Routing Permit Application Acceptance
and
Public Information Meetings
On the
MinnCan Pipeline Project
PUC Docket No. PL/PPL-05-2003

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will hold public information meetings/open houses in the locations listed below, concerning a proposal by Minnesota Pipe Line Company (MPL) to expand its existing crude oil pipeline system in Minnesota. The new expansion project is named the MinnCan Project and involves construction of a 295 mile crude oil pipeline in central Minnesota.

Staff of the DOC will conduct the meetings and review the state's permitting process for pipelines. Please note that the authority for pipeline routing was transferred to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) from the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board on July 1, 2005, and responsibility for conducting the public review process was assigned to the DOC.

Public Information Meeting/Open House Dates

The Department of Commerce will hold information meetings on the application of MPL for a pipeline routing permit for the MinnCan Project at times and places identified below. DOC staff will review the state's permitting process for pipelines and how the public may be involved. In conjunction with the DOC information meetings, MPL will hold an open house prior to each public information meeting to answer questions and provide the public with information about the project.

INFORMATION MEETING & OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

APPROXIMATELY 45 MINUTES AFTER THE START OF EACH OPEN HOUSE, A DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PRESENTATION WILL BEGIN

County	City	Meeting Location	Date and Time
Clearwater	Bagley	County Courthouse	March 13, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Hubbard	Park Rapids	Park Rapids Public Library	March 13, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Wadena	Menahga	Green Pine Acres Senior Center	March 14, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Todd	Staples	Central Lakes College, Assembly Room C168	March 14, 2006 4-7 p.m.
Morrison	Randall	Park Building	March 15, 2006 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Stearns	Albany	Community Center	March 15, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Meeker	Litchfield	County Courthouse, Rooms A and B	March 16, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Wright	Cokato	City Hall Auditorium	March 20, 2006 11 a.m. – 2p.m.
McLeod	Glencoe	Lincoln Junior High School Gymnasium	March 20, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Carver	Norwood Young America	Clay Community Building	March 21, 2006 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Sibley	Green Isle	Fire Hall	March 21, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Scott	New Prague	New Prague Middle School-Cafeteria	March 22, 2006 6-9 p.m.
Dakota	Farmington	Rambling River Center-Dining Room	March 23, 2006 6-9 p.m.

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference has been scheduled for both the Certificate of Need (**PUC Docket No. PL-5/CN-06-02**) and the Pipeline Routing Permit Application (**PUC Docket No. PL-5/PPL-05-2003**) proceeding. The prehearing conference is scheduled for Friday, March 17, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the PUC Large Hearing Room, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place E., Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147. Beverly J. Heydinger is the Administrative Law Judge.

Background

MPL filed Certificate of Need (CON) and Pipeline Routing Permit (PRP) applications with the PUC in early January 2006. In its Order dated February 16, 2006, the PUC accepted the CON and PRP applications filed by MPL. Acceptance of the applications initiates the regulatory review process requirements for the CON and the PRP.

Project Overview

MPL is proposing the construction of a new 24-inch diameter crude petroleum pipeline originating at the existing interconnection between the applicant's pipeline system and Enbridge's (formerly Lakehead Pipeline) crude oil pipeline located near Clearbrook, Minnesota, in Clearwater County in northwestern Minnesota. See project map.

The proposed route for the MinnCan Project generally follows (parallels) and uses a portion of MPL's existing 65 to 70 foot wide pipeline right-of-way southward from the Clearbrook Station for about 112 of the 119 miles in the counties of Clearwater, Hubbard, Wadena, Todd and Morrison. Near Cushing, Minnesota, in Morrison County, the MPL proposed route leaves the existing multiple line crude oil pipeline right-of-way. From that point, the proposed pipeline requires a new route and new permanent right-of-way approximately 50 feet in width for another 176 miles (generally west and south of the Twin Cities metropolitan area), in the counties of Morrison, Stearns, Meeker, Wright, McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Scott and Dakota.

The project terminates at the Flint Hills Resources refinery in Rosemount, Minnesota, in Dakota County. The Rosemount terminus will provide a direct interconnection with the Flint Hills Resources refinery and a direct interconnection through existing pipeline facilities with the Marathon Petroleum Company's St. Paul Park Refinery. In addition, two new pump stations are planned for the project. The originating station will be located inside MPL's Clearbrook Station in Clearwater County. The mid-point pump station is planned to be constructed between Milepost 140 and 146 in Morrison County.

The proposed 295 mile crude oil petroleum pipeline will have an outside diameter of 24-inches with a nominal wall thickness of 0.350 to 0.500 inches. The maximum allowable operating pressure will be 1,462 pounds per square inch (psi). The proposed pipeline will have a design capacity ranging from 60,000 to 165,000 barrels per day.

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to require a 100-foot-wide construction right-of-way at most locations. Where new permanent easements are required, MPL is planning to maintain a right-of-way of 50 feet in width. MPL intends to negotiate with affected landowners for both permanent and temporary easements.

PUC Certificate of Need and Pipeline Routing Permit Requirements

CON Process- determines the size, type and timing of the proposed pipeline and determines whether there is a better alternative for meeting the applicant's identified need.

Pipeline Routing Permit-designates the route for the pipeline and associated facilities, conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction, clean-up and restoration. This process examines alternatives routes and route segments for the pipeline. Interested persons may propose alternative routes or route segments as described below.

MPL PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE AND OPPORTUNITIES TO PROPOSE ALTERNATE ROUTES OR ROUTE SEGMENTS

MPL Pipeline Route—Minn. Rules, Chapter 4415 require the applicant to identify a preferred route. Minn. Rules 4415.0010 Subp. 32 defines route as having a variable width from the minimum required for the pipeline right-of-way (approximately 50 feet) up to 1.25 miles. Subp. 33 defines route segment as a portion of a route. MPL has proposed a route, approximately 1.25 miles in width or five-eighths of a mile on either side of the MPL proposed location alignment. Within its preferred route MPL has identified a preliminary location alignment, which is subject to change throughout the permitting process and public hearings. The permitting process will take several months to complete.

Proposing Alternate Routes or Route Segments—Any person may propose an alternate route or route segment. If you would like to make a proposal (new route or route segment) that is more than five-eighths of a mile from MPL's alignment, you should contact the staff at the Department of Commerce identified in this notice for guidance on how to submit a proposal. Please note the deadline for submitting proposals below.

If you are interested in only a minor location change or alignment modification within the MPL proposed 1.25 mile wide route, you do not need to submit a new route or route segment proposal to the PUC. Recommendations for minor location changes or alignment modifications may be presented directly to the Administrative Law Judge at the public hearings which will be held later this year.

All new route proposals must be approved of by the PUC for consideration at the public hearing. New route or route segment proposals offered at the public hearing will not be accepted because they will not have been authorized by the PUC. Persons may submit new route proposals either by mail or fax (651-297-1959) any time on or before 4:30 p.m. on May 30, 2006. **Please include the PUC docket number (PL5/PPL-05-2003) on the submittal.** Written submittals should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Department of Commerce – The Commission has designated DOC staff member Larry Hartman (Tel: 651-296-5089 or larry.hartman@state.mn.us) as project manager and Deborah Pile (Tel: 651-297-2375 or deborah.pile@state.mn.us) as the public advisor for the PRP proceeding. You may contact them at: Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198. Other contact information: Toll-Free: 1-800-657-3794, Fax: 651-297-7891 or TTY: Minnesota Relay Services, 800-627-3529, and ask for the DOC.

Public Utilities Commission – The Commission has designated Bret Eknes (Tel: 651-201-2236 or bret.eknes@puc.state.mn.us) of the PUC staff as its project manager and Ken Wolf (Tel: 651-201-2257 or ken.wolf@state.mn.us) as its public advisor for the CON proceeding. They may be contacted in writing at: Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company – Contact Tom Harwell at harwell@minncanproject.com) or call the toll-free number at 877-796-7846.

Project Mailing Lists

If you would like to have your name added to the PUC PRP proceeding mailing list for the MinnCan Project (PUC Docket PL5/PPL-05-2003), you may register at: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18339> or contact the DOC staff at the address above.

The PUC maintains a separate service list for the CON proceeding. To be placed on that list (PUC Docket PL5/CN-06-2) mail, fax, or email Robin Benson at Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147 or fax: 651-297-7073 or robin.benson@state.mn.us

PROJECT INFORMATION AVAILABILITY

PUC Online Information Locations

Information regarding the PUC proceedings on the MinnCan Project will be available on several websites. Information on the PRP will be available at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=18339> or on eDockets at: <http://www.edockets.state.mn.us/>. Type in 05-2003 for information on the route proceedings or 06-2 for information on the CON proceedings.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company Online Information

MinnCan Project information will also be available on the Minnesota Pipe Line Company website at: (<http://www.minncanproject.com>). The MPL website provides links to the PUC websites.

Application Availability

Minnesota Pipe Line Company has provided a copy of its applications (Pipeline Routing Permit and CON) and a set of pipeline route maps to each regional development commission, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, auditor of each county, and to the clerk of each township and city crossed by the proposed pipeline. Please contact the appropriate office or person to review the applications.

Both applications and a set of pipeline route maps are also available for review at the public libraries in the cities of Bagley, Park Rapids, Wadena, Staples, Swanville, Upsala, Albany, Richmond, Dassel, Cokato, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Norwood Young America, Belle Plaine, New Market, New Prague, Farmington and Lakeville.

Minnesota Pipe Line Company will provide a CD or print copy of the CON and PRP applications to any person upon request. See contact information above.

MINNESOTA LAWS AND RULES GOVERNING PIPELINES

Certificate of Need. The proposed project falls under the definition of “large energy facility” in Minn. Statute, section 216B.2421, subd 2 (4). Therefore, in accordance with Minn. Statute, section 216B.243, subd. 2, the facility cannot be sited or constructed in Minnesota unless the PUC issues a Certificate of Need to the Applicant.

The certificate of need rules pertinent to this filing are Minn. Rules, Parts 7553.0010 to 7853.0800. More specifically, the application requirements for petroleum pipeline facilities are given by Parts 7853.0230 to 7853.0270 and 7853.0500 to 7853.0640.

Pipeline Routing Permit. The proposed project falls under the definition “pipeline” in Minn. Stat. section 116I.015, subd.1. Therefore, in accordance with Minn. Stat. section 116I.015, the proposed facility cannot be sited or constructed unless the PUC issues a Pipeline Routing Permit to the Applicant.

The pipeline routing rules are in Minn. Rules, Chapter 4415. More specifically, the PRP application is being reviewed pursuant to Minn. Rules, parts 4415.0045 to 4415.0100.

Eminent Domain. In the event that MPL cannot reach an agreement with a landowner for an easement, MPL will have the authority upon issuance of a Pipeline Routing Permit under Minnesota laws (Minn. Stat, section 117.48) to acquire the right-of-way necessary to construct and operate the proposed pipeline and associated facilities.

MinnCan Project Proposed Pipeline Route

