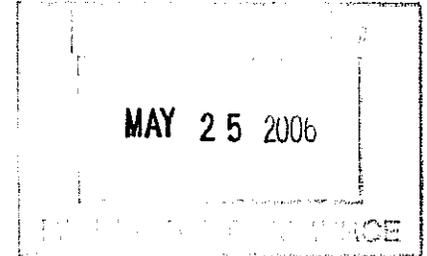


Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace (CCMT)

P.O. Box 18070 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-0070

Phone Number: (612) 706-1460 ♦ E-mail: neighborhood@go.com

Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, suite 500
St Paul, MN 55101-2198



May 19, 2006

Dear Ms. Ferguson,

Tom Olinger and Patty Pederson from CenterPoint Energy attended the May 18 public meeting of the Concerned Citizens of Marshall Terrace (CCMT) to present information on their role in the conversion of Xcel Energy's Riverside Power Plant from coal to natural gas. Ken Beadell from Xcel Energy also attended the meeting to answer any questions regarding the Riverside Plant or Xcel Energy.

Tom Olinger explained the application process Center Point Energy is currently involved in to obtain a permit for the pipeline. Neighbors were given printouts with the dates and times of the Hennepin and Anoka County Public Meetings on the permit application. Tom explained the purpose of these meeting and the information that CenterPoint Energy would present at the meetings.

CenterPoint Energy also distributed copies of the proposed pipeline route and an information sheet on the pipeline project for the Riverside Plant. Tom explained the pipeline route and the reasons that CenterPoint Energy has proposed this route. Tom also explained the safety checks and pipeline maintenance procedures followed by CenterPoint Energy. Tom was very helpful, he was very clear in his explanation of the permit process and the pipeline project, he answered all the neighbors' questions in regards to this project.

After the presentation and discussion of Pipeline Project CCMT voted to support CenterPoint Energy's role in the conversion of the Riverside Plant to a natural gas burning plant. We are confident they will continue to keep CCMT informed as they move forward. We applaud the effort to reduce pollution through the conversion to natural gas.

Sincerely,

Sue Sigurdson, CCMT President

Larry Hartman

From: Sharon Ferguson
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 3:09 PM
To: Deborah.Pile@state.mn.us; Larry Hartman
Subject: FW: Riverside Pipeline

-----Original Message-----

From: charlespratt@saintvdp.org [mailto:charlespratt@saintvdp.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 31, 2006 5:31 PM
To: Sharon.Ferguson@state.mn.us
Subject: FW: Riverside Pipeline

May 31, 2006

Dear Sharon Ferguson

I attended one of the meetings last Wednesday regarding the Riverside Pipeline Project. I found it very informative and feel better about having another pipeline near my residence. I want to state that I am not against the project. I do, however, have a concern about the placement of the pipeline. I live in Coon Rapids in a townhouse near Highway 10 and Egret near the railroad tracks. As proposed the project will be on the west side of the tracks, furthest from the townhouses in my area. This proposal is most desirable. I understand that there is a chance the project may entail placement on the east side of the tracks which would require removal of a large number of mature trees as well as other greenery. This wooded area provides not only a visual barrier, but a sound barrier for frequently used tracks. I am also concerned that if the project is on the east side of the tracks, the noise from the project will add to an already noise polluted area because of Highway 10 and the trains. Be aware that the streets in the townhouse area are narrow and private, which could be a problem for large equipment's access to the construction site.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,
Charles Pratt
1053 108th LN NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55433
(763)205-2693

June 6, 2006

Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

State of Minnesota
JUN 13 2006
Dept. of Commerce

Subject: Docker No. G008/GP-06-426

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

The Woodridge Lodges Homeowners Association would like to express its concern regarding the preferred route location for the proposed Riverside Pipeline. The Homeowners Association feels it is of critical importance that the preferred route runs along the west side of the Burlington Northern Railroad, as currently proposed, from north of Highway 10 to south of State Highway 610. The existing trees and vegetation along the east side of the railroad currently acts as a natural sound and visual barrier between Woodridge Lodges and the Burlington Northern Railroad. Establishing a permanent right-of-way width of 50 feet and a temporary right-of-way width of an additional 10 feet on the east side of the Burlington Northern Railroad would remove this natural barrier. Woodridge Lodges feels the removal of this natural barrier would have a negative impact on the quality of life of our homeowners, and a negative impact on the property value. The Woodridge Lodges Homeowners Association therefore feels it is a necessity for the proposed preferred route to run along the west side of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Sincerely,

Woodridge Lodges Homeowners Association

Karen L. Mazzacano
Jim Heumann

cc: Thomas Olinger
Centerpoint Project Manager
PO Box 1165
Mpls, MN 55440-1165

cc: Gregory Wheeler, J.D.
9219 East River Road NW
Mpls, MN 55433

Petition to keep the preferred route of the proposed Riverside pipeline on the West side of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Petition summary and background
 The Homeowners Association is concerned that routing the pipeline other than what was proposed as the preferred route (west side), would require the removal of the current trees and vegetation acting as a natural barrier between the homeowners and the Burlington Northern Railroad (east side).

Action petitioned for
 We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens who urge our leaders to act now to keep the preferred route of the proposed Riverside pipeline on the west side of the Burlington Northern Railroad.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Mary Nelson		10724 Tamarack St NW		6-6-06
Ron Kemp		10723 Chevy St NW		6-6-06
Kathy Kemp		10723 Bentley St NW		6-6-06
Lennie Scott		10809 Yale St NW		6-6-06
Andrew Smith		10721 La. 73 St NW		6-6-06
Nik Peter		10711 Unity St NW		6-6-06
Luke Javors		10715 Unity St NW		6-6-06
Bruce Inhoff		10914 NW Unity St		6-6-06
Jana Marck		10728 Tamarack St NW		6-6-06
Tiffany Harmon		10716 108th Lane NW		6-6-06
Kashm Zell		1084 109th Ln NW		6-6-06

Petition to keep the preferred route of the proposed Riverside pipeline on the West side of the Burlington Northern Northern Railroad.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Comment	Date
Steve Thompson	<i>[Signature]</i>	10708 - Tranwood Street		6-6-06
Patricia Spitzer	<i>[Signature]</i>	1040 109th LN NW		6-6-06
Louise Baer	<i>[Signature]</i>	1001 107th Dr. NW		6-6-06
Sybil Smart	<i>[Signature]</i>	10739 Unity Sp. NW		6-6-06
Denise McDonald	<i>[Signature]</i>	10739 Unity St NW		6-6-06
Jan CONTRAST	<i>[Signature]</i>	10765 Wintergreen SE NW		6-6-06
Shawna Kamussen	<i>[Signature]</i>	10105 109th Ave NW		6-6-06
Nelle Anderson	<i>[Signature]</i>	10108 109th Ave NW		6-6-06
Adele L. Myhr	<i>[Signature]</i>	1867 108th Ave NW		6-6-06
Margaret Hebl	<i>[Signature]</i>	99 Margaret Hebl		6-6-06
Gayle Dausky	<i>[Signature]</i>	10912 Yale St. NW		6-6-06
Shirley D. Masi	<i>[Signature]</i>	1043 108th St NW		6-6-06
Ralph D. Masi	<i>[Signature]</i>	1043 108th St NW		6-6-06
Michele Johnson	<i>[Signature]</i>	1075 108th Ave NW		6-6-06
LINDA GENEVA	<i>[Signature]</i>	10910 Tamworth St NW		6-6-06



John K. VonDeLinde
Director

Anoka County Department of Parks and Recreation

550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW • Andover, Minnesota 55304
Telephone (763) 757-3920 • FAX (763) 755-0230

June 12, 2006

JUN 15 2006

Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 - 7th Place East
Suite #500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Subject: CenterPoint Energy – Riverside Pipeline Routing Permit Application
PUC Docket No. G008/GP-06-426

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

This letter is in response to a request by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for comment on the above referenced permit application.

The proposed pipeline alignment under consideration includes four components of the Anoka County Regional Park system: Bunker Hills Regional Park, Anoka County Riverfront Regional Park, Mississippi River Regional Trail, and Coon Creek Regional Trail.

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has had several meetings with CenterPoint Energy and its consulting engineer, ProSource Technologies, Inc. regarding the pipeline. Onsite review and preliminary scoping of the proposed alignment through these park areas indicates that the proposed project will have minimal impact on existing or proposed recreational facilities. Similarly, the impact to natural resources and landscaped areas will be minor and mitigation efforts will be made to restore disturbed areas to pre-construction conditions.

The Anoka County Parks and Recreation Committee (a sub-committee of the County Board) has reviewed and is in concurrence with the proposed pipeline project as it relates to the affected regional parks and trails. Assuming that the project is approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, the County will work in due diligence to develop permanent easements through the regional park and trail areas for placement of the pipe. Additionally, temporary easements or other agreements may be required for the staging of equipment, material storage, and other construction logistic requirements.

In summary, the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed and is in concurrence with the proposed alignment of the Riverside pipeline routing permit application and will continue to cooperate with CenterPoint Energy and its consulting engineer - ProSource Technologies, Inc. – on the implementation of easements and permits for the construction of the pipeline through the regional parks. If you should have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at 763-767-2860 or at john.vondelinde@co.anoka.mn.us.

Sincerely,



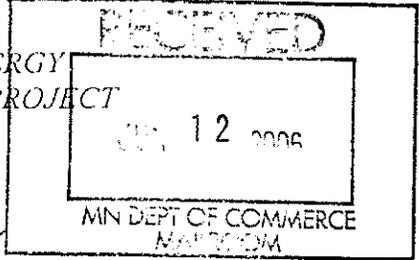
John VonDeLinde
Director of Parks and Recreation

Cc: Commissioner Dick Lang, Parks and Recreation Committee Chair
Jon Olson, Public Services Division Manager
Doug Fischer, County Engineer
Karen Blaska, Park Planner
Dave Hennen, ProSource Technologies, Inc.



PROJECT COMMENT SHEET

CENTERPOINT ENERGY
RIVERSIDE PIPELINE PROJECT



Docket number G008/GP-06-426

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for the proposed natural gas pipeline to run from the Northern Natural Gas Town Border Station in Andover, MN to the Xcel Riverside Generation Plant in NE Minneapolis. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by CenterPoint Energy and was accepted on May 4, 2006 (Docket No. G008/GP-06-426). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through June 14, 2006

(Use the back of this page for additional comments, use extra pages as necessary.)

I object to the routing of the gas line along 148th in Andover. There already are two gas easements through this residential development. THAT'S ENOUGH! Share the easements!!!

Tom Petrick
14815 Palm St. NW
Andover, MN 55304

Complete and turn in today, or mail by June 14, 2006 to:

Sharon Ferguson
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us

Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East Suite 500
St. Paul Mn. 55101-2198
June 13, 2006

JUN 16 2006

Dear Sharon,

I am writing to comment on the construction of the natural gas pipeline (G008/gp-06-426) being built to service the Excel Energy Power Plant in NE Minneapolis as it is converted from coal to natural gas use.

I live several miles downriver from the plant and have been a member of the St. Anthony West neighborhood Organization for 22 years. All of the neighborhoods in NE Minneapolis have worked very hard to make this conversion happen. We have been tireless in our efforts to persuade our elected officials and Excel Energy to improve the air quality for us by converting the plant. We are very pleased to see it happen.

An important role in the conversion is the construction of the pipeline. Without it there will be no conversion. No doubt there will be some minor hardship for property owners along the route during construction. Clearly the end results of cleaner air will be worth some short term problems. I encourage you to send the project forward and to let the Department of Commerce know that I and all my neighbors support the effort.

Thank you,



Michael Rainville
Resident of St. Anthony West
NE Minneapolis.

Cc Larry Hartman.



PROJECT COMMENT SHEET

*CENTERPOINT ENERGY
RIVERSIDE PIPELINE PROJECT*

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for the proposed natural gas pipeline to run from the Northern Natural Gas Town Border Station in Andover, MN to the Xcel Riverside Generation Plant in NE Minneapolis. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by CenterPoint Energy and was accepted on May 4, 2006 (Docket No. G008/GP-06-426). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through June 14, 2006

(Use the back of this page for additional comments, use extra pages as necessary.)

JUN 13 2006

~~JUN 14~~

Complete and turn in today, or mail by June 14, 2006 to:

Sharon Ferguson
Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, MN 55101-2198

Email: sharon.ferguson@state.mn.us

Dear Sharon Ferguson (MN Dept. of Commerce), Thomas Olinger (CenterPoint Energy), and Gregory Wheeler (ProSource Technologies),

Thank you for communicating the gasoline project plans with those of us who have an interest in the property at stake. This letter serves to express my intense desire that the pipeline run along the west side of the tracks **as proposed**. At the Anoka County meeting (Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley), I had the opportunity to talk with the project manger, Tom Olinger. I was grateful for his clear explanations. There was one comment, however, that concerned me. And that was the possibility of moving the pipeline to the east side of the tracks **if** problems or difficulties were encountered further up the line.

A significant number of us who live in the Woodridge Lodges Townhomes live extremely close to the railroad tracks; they are just steps from our front doors. The beautiful mature trees that grow there provide our only visual and sound barrier from the many trains that run there. And according to the project specs and my discussion with CenterPoint people, those trees would all be removed and **not** replaced because they would present a root/root structure problem.

I've enclosed a few photos so you can see what I'm talking about. Just as buying a home with many mature trees on the lot increases the value of the property, these trees affect our property values and our quality of life. In fact, many homeowners chose their site based on the beauty afforded by the trees and vegetation.

After the meeting in Anoka County, I contacted our property management firm (Cities Management in Mpls.), to make sure they were up-to-date on the pipeline project. They asked me to give a short presentation/summary to the Board at the next association meeting. I did. Many homeowners (up and down the streets bordered by the trees) were eager to express their concern, as well. By now, you should have a letter from the Board, signed by many of these people.

Thank you for the opportunity to make comments. I hope that the project goes smoothly and without complications.

Kindest regards,



Peggy Trippel
1069 108th Lane N.W.
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

June 14, 2006

JUN 15 2006

Sharon Ferguson
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

RE: Metropolitan Council Review of CenterPoint Energy Riverside Pipeline Routing Permit (G008/GP-06-426); Metropolitan Council Review File No. 19766-1

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the permit application for the *CenterPoint Energy Riverside Pipeline*. According to the information presented in the application, we understand that CenterPoint Energy requests a permit to construct a 16.3-mile natural gas pipeline originating in Andover, MN and terminating at the Excel Energy Riverside power plant in northeast Minneapolis, MN. The application is to obtain a gas pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures. Partial exemptions may be granted for proposals of new pipelines "that are not controversial or do not have an unusually high impact on people or the environment." (Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/pipeline_streamlined_review.html). The proposed route is partially within existing public and private utility right-of-way (R/W), with 11.4 miles adjacent to the R/W of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad. The pipeline route crosses through the Cities of Andover, Coon Rapids and Fridley in Anoka County; and the City of Minneapolis, in Hennepin County.

Council staff reviewed this Application to determine its potential for: *a) significant environmental impact; b) its adequacy and accuracy in addressing regional concerns, and; c) its impact on Council property, activities and/or facilities.* Staff identified several areas of regional concern with the proposed route and permit regarding:

- Regional wastewater infrastructure;
- Regional transportation system;
- Regional parks, and;
- Erosion control measures.

The Council offers the following comments for your consideration during the review process.

Regional Wastewater Infrastructure, Kyle Colvin (651-602-1151)

Document Review Comments

The Application indicates that the proposed 20-inch gas pipeline could be located on the easement for a large Council-owned sanitary sewer interceptor, which would be detrimental to the maintenance, and potential future expansion, of the regional wastewater system. The Council will not give up these essential property rights. The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) owns and operates a sanitary sewer interceptor facility which parallels much of the proposed alignment of the high pressure gas transmission pipeline. The size of the interceptor varies throughout the length of the proposed alignment: beginning with a 48-inch interceptor near Coon Rapids Boulevard, to a 96-inch interceptor near the project terminus at the Riverside Power Plant in Minneapolis.

After reviewing maps obtained from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission web site, it appears that the additional easements sought to cover the proposed 20-inch gas transmission pipeline will, in some areas, overlap existing MCES sanitary sewer easements. The MCES easements were acquired at the time the wastewater facility was planned and constructed to facilitate continued operation and maintenance of the regional wastewater conveyance system. No encumbrance of these easements can be allowed which would hinder the continued operation and maintenance of the facility or the regional sanitary wastewater service it provides. MCES also is concerned about the potential for damage to the interceptor facility and its appurtenances from construction-related activities.

The Council needs additional information to determine the extent to which the proposed pipeline will affect the regional wastewater disposal system. Once preliminary plans are complete, one set should be submitted to MCES for review. These plans should delineate the extent of any planned additional easement acquisitions. Once available, the information requested above can be forwarded to Kyle Colvin, Principal Staff Engineer, MCES, Technical Services Section, 290 South Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. Mr. Colvin can be reached at (651) 602-1151 or at kyle.colvin@metc.state.mn.us.

Regional Transportation, Connie Kozlak (651-602-1720)

Document Review Comments

The proposed pipeline may impact the Northstar Corridor Commuter Rail project and it will be important for CenterPoint Energy to coordinate with the NorthStar Project office. Metro Transit has reviewed the proposed Riverside Pipeline project materials and determined that there appears to be no significant impact to existing facilities. However, there may be an impact to the proposed Northstar Commuter Rail project. The pipeline is proposed to follow the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad R/W through Andover, Coon Rapids, and Fridley in Anoka County. The portion of the rail R/W south of Coon Rapids Boulevard will also be used for the NorthStar Corridor Commuter Rail Project. CenterPoint Energy should coordinate with the NorthStar Project office to assure that the specific alignment within the rail R/W does not interfere with location of facilities, such as stations, that will be constructed for the commuter rail line. This coordination could lead to efficiencies in construction for both projects, or at a minimum, minimize disruption of one project while the other is being built.

Regional Parks, Greg Pates (651-602-1410)

4415.0140 Location & Environment

Parks and Recreation Areas. *In addition to the pipeline's effect on parks, the document should address potential effects on local and regional trails, both existing and proposed, as well as mitigation measures/procedures.* The application indicates that the proposed pipeline route crosses or runs adjacent to 13 parks, including two regional parks in Anoka County: Bunker Hills Regional Park and Riverfront Regional Park. Existing natural gas lines are located within or adjacent to these parks. The document does not show, however, that the pipeline also crosses or runs adjacent to several regional trails. These are: the Coon Creek and Mississippi River Regional Trails, in Anoka County and the St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail, in Hennepin County. The proposed pipeline crosses the St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will rebuild the St. Anthony Parkway Regional Trail and associated facilities in 2007. MPRB Engineer Tim Brown (612-230-6466) should be contacted regarding the pipeline location and alignment. Mitigating impacts to parkland is discussed in Section 4415.0145 Environmental Impact of Preferred Route (see comments below).

4415.0145 Environmental Impacts of the Preferred Route Recreation Areas. *Ongoing coordination with Anoka County and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is important to minimize construction and operations impacts to regional parks and trails, and to develop appropriate mitigation measure for potential impacts.* The document states that construction and operation of the proposed pipeline are not expected to have significant impact to recreational areas or public land, and that CenterPoint will work closely with cities and counties regarding specific construction requirement associated with park land. CenterPoint Energy should continue to work closely with Anoka County Parks (John VonDeLinde, Parks Director, 763-767-2860), and the MPRB (Tim Brown, Engineer, 612-230-6466) to minimize negative effects on regional parks and trails.

Regional Storm Water System, James Larsen (651-602-1159)

Appendix C: Typical Drawings

Typical Stages of Pipeline Construction Diagram. *This application document and further project specifications should be modified to reflect NPDES Permit requirements on sediment control practices.* The diagram on page 66/88 of the electronic Appendices file depicts the construction step as beginning with clearing and grading of the construction corridor before installation of temporary erosion control measures. However, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit program requires that site sediment control practices be installed on all down-gradient perimeters before any up-gradient land disturbing activities begin. This application and any further project specifications need to be modified to reflect this NPDES Permit requirement.

This will conclude the Council's review of the application. Please note that we will take no formal action on the application. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Denise Engen, principal reviewer for this project, at 651-602-1513.

Sincerely, ♪



Phyllis Hanson, Manager
Local Planning Assistance

cc: Tony Pistilli, Metropolitan Council District 2
Natalie Steffen, Metropolitan Council District 9
Lynette Wittsack, Metropolitan Council District 8
Denise Pedersen Engen, Sector Representative and Principal Reviewer
Cheryl Olsen, Reviews Coordinator