



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

October 15, 2007

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

RE: Nashwauk-Blackberry Pipeline Routing Permit Application
Docket #PL E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Nashwauk-Blackberry Pipeline Routing Permit Application. With respect to potential impacts to natural resources, the DNR offers the following comments.

The proposed route appears to cross – and therefore, will encumber – State-owned magnetic taconite and other ferrous resources. The permanent encumbrance of these state mineral lands will require compensation for the various trusts involved.

Additionally, the proximity of the route to future mining activities, such as blasting, must be considered. The DNR recently received a request to lease state-owned minerals that are less than one-quarter mile from the proposed pipeline route. Should the route preclude the mining of state mineral lands, the trusts involved must be compensated.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. Please contact me with any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Langan', is written over a horizontal line.

Matt Langan
Environmental Review Unit
Division of Ecological Resources
(651) 259-5115

c: Steve Colvin, Craig Engwall, Dave Holmbeck, Joe Rokala, Tim Pastika, Bill Storm – DOC

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