STATE OF MINNESOTA
Minnesota Department of Commerce

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS

Issued: April 3, 2007

In the Matter of the Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Partial Exemption from Pipeline Route Selection Procedures for the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission, Nashwauk-Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project.

MPUC Docket Number: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE a public information meeting will be held at the place and time identified below, concerning the application submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) for a pipeline routing permit to construct a 23-mile natural gas pipeline in Itasca County originating at a take-off point on an existing Great Lakes Gas (GLG) 36-inch pipeline in Blackberry Township and terminating in the city of Nashwauk. The NPUC submitted the pipeline application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on March 7, 2007. On March 29 the PUC accepted the application as complete, and initiated the public review process.

OPEN HOUSE & PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
6:00 PM - APRIL 18, 2007

Taconite Community Center
26 Haynes Street
Taconite, MN 55786

An Open House will begin at 6:00, the Public Information Meeting will begin at 7:00

Staff of the Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) will conduct the public meeting on behalf of the PUC and describe the state's pipeline permitting process and how the public may be involved. In conjunction with the DOC information meetings, the NPUC will hold an open house prior to each public meeting to answer questions and provide the public with information about the project.

Project Description
The proposed pipeline will have an outside diameter of 24-inches and an operating pressure of 599 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). The pipeline will be buried underground and run adjacent to existing utilities to the maximum extent possible within Itasca County in the townships of Blackberry, Trout Lake, Iron Range, Greenway and Nashwauk, and the cities of Taconite and Nashwauk.

The NPUC plans to have the pipeline in service by November 2008.

Project Location
The proposed 23-mile natural gas pipeline will begin about 0.6 miles southeast of the GLG block valve station located just south of U.S. Highway 2 near the unincorporated town of Blackberry, Minnesota. The first 2 miles of the route will extend north-northeast to avoid a large wetland bog north of U.S. Highway 2. From there the proposed route will turn due east approximately 2 miles to be aligned directly south of the city of Taconite. The proposed route will extend north from this point about 1.5 miles where it will cross the Swan River and then continue north where is will parallel an existing 8-inch Northern Natural Gas pipeline right-of-way for approximately 0.9 miles and then follow a proposed 230 kV high voltage transmission line (HVTL) route for 4.2 miles. Within this segment, the route will cross the Swan River a second time. The next 1.3 miles of the proposed route will run within an existing HVTL right-of-way north of the city of Taconite. At Taconite the pipeline will turn to the east, where it will proceed eastwards to the termination point within the city of Nashwauk along 9-miles of new route.

PUC Pipeline Routing Permit Requirements
The PUC is reviewing this project pursuant to the requirements of the Pipeline Routing Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4415). This set of rules contains two different types of review procedures for a pipeline routing permit. The NPUC is seeking review under the shorter of the two review processes, referred to as a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures. Both review procedures require the applicant to submit the same information; however, the shorter process does not require the applicant to identify an alternative route and does not require a contested case hearing.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) holds public information meetings to provide information on the permitting process and to receive information to assist the PUC in determining whether to grant or deny the partial exemption application.

In deciding whether to grant or deny the partial exemption, the PUC shall consider comments that are filed with the DOC, the record of the public information meetings, and the information contained in the application relevant to the criteria for a partial exemption. Any person may file comments with the PUC stating reasons why the PUC should grant or deny the partial exemption**.** If the PUC grants the partial exemption application, it will also issue a pipeline routing permit. If the partial exemption is denied, the applicant may request that the PUC continue processing its application under full pipeline route selection procedures.

Public Comments

The public has until 4:30 p.m. on May 18, 2007, to submit written or fax (651-297-7891) comments on this project. Please include the following docket number (PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

Project Information

A more detailed explanation of the proposed project is contained in the application for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures filed with the PUC. Copies of the NPUC application, pipeline routing rules and the pipeline routing act will be available at the information meeting. For electronic access to all public documents in this proceeding see the PUC project website at:

http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19035

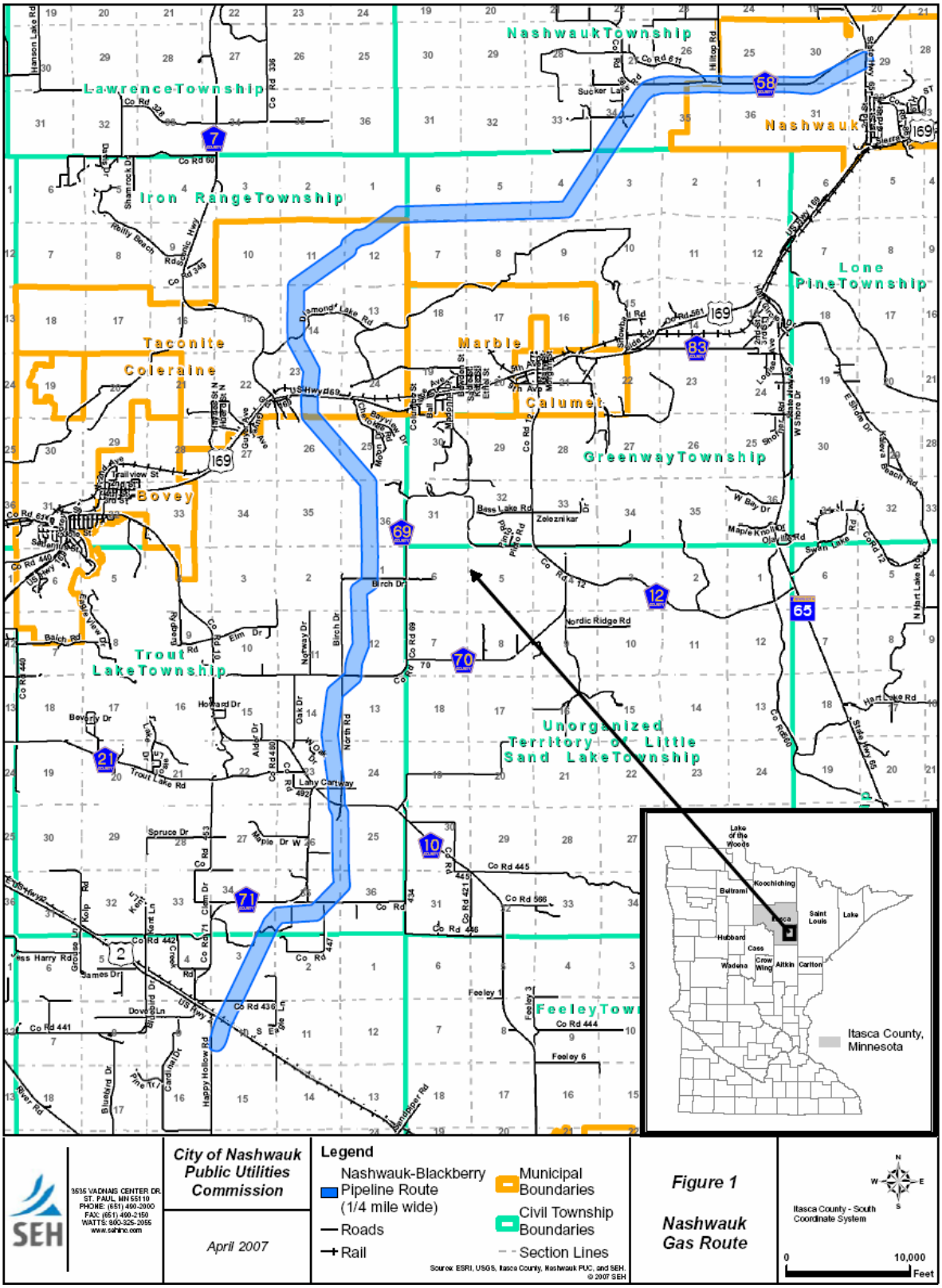
Public documents can also be viewed by entering docket number 06-1481 at the eDockets search page:

https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp

DOC Project Contacts

To ask questions or seek further information about this proposed project from the DOC, please contact Project Manager, Jeffrey Haase (Tel: 651-297-6548 or jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us) or Public Advisor, Suzanne Steinhauer (Tel: 651-296-2888 or suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us).

If you would like to have your name added to the mailing list for this project you may register online at the project website listed above or contact DOC staff.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City of Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
April 2007
Legend
Nashwauk-Blackberry Pipeline Route (1/4 mile wide)
Roads
Rail
Municipal Boundaries
Civil Township Boundaries
Section Lines
Source: ESRI, USGS, Itasca County, Nashwauk PUC, and SEH.
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Figure 1
Nashwauk Gas Route
Itasca County - South Coordinate System
0
10,000
Feet