



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

To whom this may concern:

As a resident of Trout Lake Township in Itasca county I am writing with the hope that the pipeline project mentioned above be denied the partial Exemption Application and consider alternate routes.

The land that the proposed route passes thru beautiful farms and forest. Some of these lands will be built upon some day and pipelines and utilities devalue its use and worth. I have large Trout Lake property and it has had some negative impacts on me.

Also as a former steelworker and concerned citizen I do support the development of the steel mill in Nashwauk

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

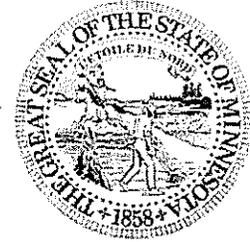
Gary D Edwards

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007

25967 SPRUCE DR
BOVEY MN 55709



Public Comment Sheet



**In the Matter of the Partial Exemption
Application for the Proposed
Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas
Pipeline Project submitted by the
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission**

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It has been brought to my attention that you have chosen a route for the MSI gas pipeline without following the law. There are other routes to be considered and I suggest that you let us choose an advisory committee, as the law states, from local citizens to be on this committee.

This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481.

Nancy Cardille

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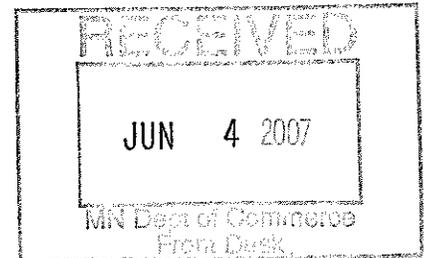
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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. They should have alternate routes.

We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes.

Blaine Perry
26439 Birch Dr
Bovey mn. 55709

218-245-1504



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June 8, 2007**

Haase

May 11, 2007

In reference to docket number (PLE-280/GP-06-1481)

Dear Sharon Ferguson,

My family resides in Blackberry Minnesota within the proposed grey area of the MPUC pipeline. I have lived here for over 36 years and the biggest fear I have had is in spring with the bears. Now I have some serious concerns and fears of having the pipeline within throwing distance and real concern of the area of Blackberry destroying the beauty and peacefulness this area has drawn my family to. Blackberry is NOT the best route to have the pipeline going threw. We all know that land has to be taken but there are other routes brought to my attention that will be better then destroying this area. One is following the Minnesota Power transmission lines. These routes have already been established and would not affect the homes, land and people's water wells that would surely do harm to our beautiful land in Blackberry. Our property that we have lived on and have paid taxes on and have put our hearts and souls into and providing our family with a country style living will be without a value if that pipeline comes into the Blackberry area. There ARE alternatives! Take Blackberry off the pipeline route and deny the partial exemption.

Sincerely

Darryl and Cathy Krumrei
24942 County Road 436
Grand Rapids, Minnesota (but reside in
Blackberry Minnesota)

Darryl Krumrei
Cathy Krumrei

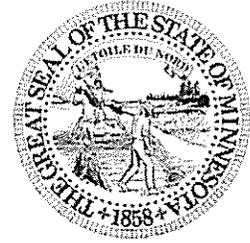
State of Minnesota
MAY 14 2007
Dept. of Commerce



MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. They should have alternate routes.

We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would ~~run through~~ ~~landowners~~

Sincerely

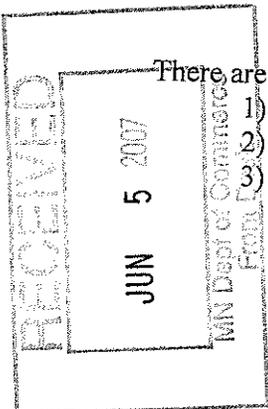
KATHLEEN BENNETT
27234 Birch Dr
Bovey MN, 55709

6-2-07

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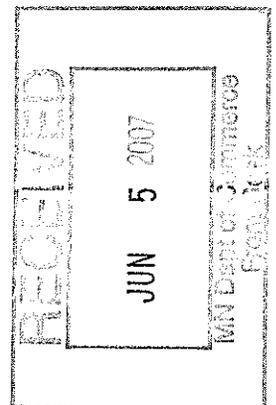
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this application by the nashwauk public utilities commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. they should have alternate routes.

we need a Citizen Advisory committee to look into alternate routes, that would affect less hardowners.

*Sincerely
Lowell Bennett
27234 Birch Drive
Bovey mn. 55709*

6-02-07



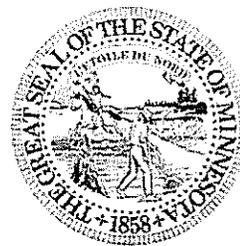
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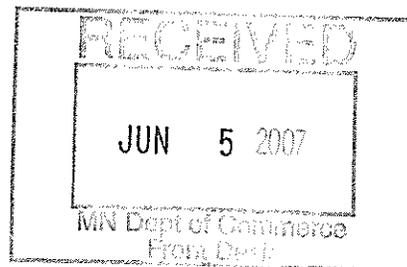
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We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would affect less landowners.

Sincerely,

1607 E US Hwy 169
Grand Rapids MN
55744



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MINNESOTA
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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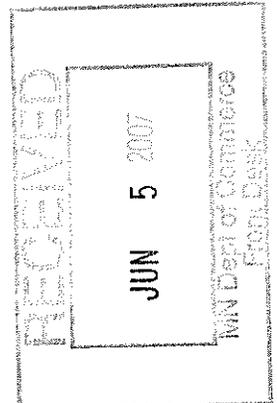
We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would affect less landowners.

Eric Volkmann

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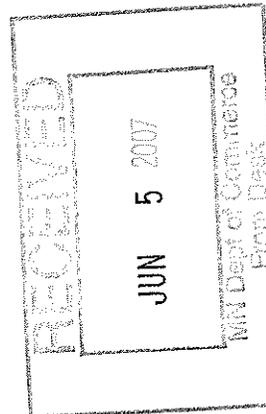
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Singerley
Daria Volkemann
D. singerley

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June 8, 2007**



April 19, 2007

Stacy Kotch
Utility Transmission Route Coordinator
Mn/DOT, Office of Technical Support

Subject: Nashwauk – Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project (PL, E-280/GP-06-1481)

After District review of the proposed route for the Nashwauk to Blackberry 24" Natural Gas Pipeline Project. We have determined that District One only has concerns at two locations for the proposed pipe line. The first location of interest is the crossing under U.S. Highway 2 at approximate mile point 192.6. There are currently no programmed projects in that area or do we for see any problems with the location of any crossings. The other location is the crossing under U.S. Highway 169 at approximate mile point 316.2. At this time there is a reclamation and bituminous overlay project scheduled in fiscal year 2010. However, with the possibility of MnDOT acquiring additional funding, we are proceeding ahead with preliminary plans for expanding the roadway at this location to a four lane divided highway that was programmed for later construction. For additional information on this future project, you may contact Dan Erickson, Project Manager at (218) 725-2746.

Items Mn/DOT will require for this project are:

- 1) Detailed plans at the crossing locations for Mn/DOT review.
- 2) A long form utility permit submitted to the Mn/DOT Utility Agreements/Utility Permit Office for the pipe line crossing at each location.
- 3) Access Permit submitted to District One Permits Office for any temporary access to the project from any Trunk Highways.

If you have any questions, please call me at (218) 725-2779. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rex Bordson
Right-of-Way Permits Supervisor / District PUC contact

cc: Duane Hill, Dan Erickson, Roberta Dwyer

Jeffrey Haase

From: Roger Johnson [gnioprj@rangebroadband.com]
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2007 1:50 PM
To: Jeffrey Haase
Cc: Tom A. Janochoski
Subject: Nashwauk - Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project

Mr. Jeffrey Haase
Project Manager
MN Dept. of Commerce

Dear Mr. Haase,

My name is Roger Johnson and I am employed by Great Northern Iron Ore Properties (GNIOP) in Hibbing, MN.

We recently received a "Notice of Application for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Public Informational Meetings" from the State of MN - DOC (Issue date: April 3, 2007). In reviewing the information included with this notice, including maps showing the location of the proposed natural gas pipeline, it appears the pipeline may cross several parcels owned by GNIOP. To confirm precise pipeline location, I will need access to a larger scale map to identify specific forties before construction begins. GNIOP will require a license agreement with the gas provider, which license agreement can be prepared by GNIOP personnel, before construction begins.

I understand the 'public comment period' for the proposed pipeline runs through May 18, 2007. I presume there is a possibility that the proposed route may be altered or revised. Once the final route has been selected and received all the necessary approvals, please provide me with a more detailed map of the pipeline location or a website that provides this information.

Also, please provide me with any further information concerning this project. This can be emailed to me or mailed to our Hibbing Office (P.O. Box 429, Hibbing, MN 55746). Please call me with any questions you may have (218-262-3886).

Thank you,
Roger Johnson

Jeffrey Haase

From: Marian Champlin [marian@blackberrylodge.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 12:40 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: MPUC Docket Number PL,E-208/GP-06-1481

Regarding the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline from Blackberry, MN to Nashwalk, MN:

Both the original and the Partial Exemption Routes for the pipeline are unacceptable as:

1. They infringe on more private property than necessary
2. They are longer routes than necessary
3. The applicant must submit more options
4. The obvious option of running the line under the existing transmission line which begins about one mile East of the existing pipeline is not being considered. If this is because of a small ore deposit, it would require only a 3-mile detour around the deposit - and the line would still be shorter than anything proposed to date. The transmission line runs on tax forfeited land which has been cleared and makes more sense than anything proposed so far.
5. No infrastructure should be begun until if and when the building of the proposed steel plant has been entirely funded and approved.

I submit this as a property owner of 55 acres in the path of the proposed pipeline route.

Sincerely,

Marian Champlin
24667 Evergreen Drive
Bovey, MN 55709



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I think the application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted.

They should have an alternate route because apparently the Mesaba Energy Project has their own pipeline plan and will not hook up to proposed Blackberry to Nashwauk Mn. pipeline project.

The Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission does not need to run the pipeline to Taconite, they should have a shorter route to Nashwauk that would not affect landowners.

We have one pipeline going through our property and with another pipeline it will destroy more of our timber, most of the trees are over 60+ years old, also the value of our property will go down.

DeLores White
22710 County Road 70
Bovey, Mn. 55709

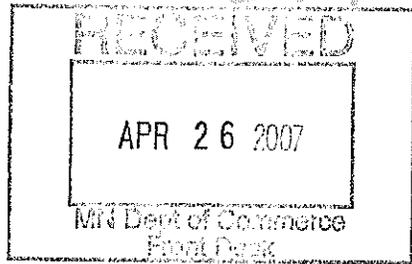
DeLores White

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Jeff Nease



To: Sharon Ferguson

From: Jon Bensen

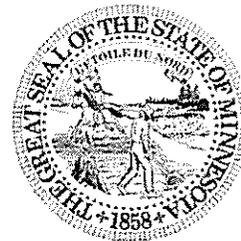
Re: Pipeline through Trout Lake Township
Docket # PL, E-280/BP-06-1481

I object to another pipeline going through Trout Lake Township. I am in favor of the Steel Plant in Nashwanuk. There is no reason why the existing pipeline cannot be used.

J. Bensen
4/29/07



Public Comment Sheet



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MY WIFE + I OWN THE NE 1/4 OF THE SW 1/4 SECTION 1, T 55 N
R 24 W OF THE 4TH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN. THE NASHWAUK PUC
(AND EXCELSIOR) PROPOSE TO RUN A PIPELINE ACROSS MY PROPERTY.

THIS (THESE) PIPELINE(S) WOULD MAKE MY PROPERTY
VALUELESS TO US OR TO ANY PROSPECTIVE PURCHASER.
I CAN'T LIVE WITH AN ONGOING RAPE OF MY LAND, YET
I ALSO CAN'T SELL THE PROPERTY, OR NOT AT ITS PRESENT
VALUE ON THE MARKET.

NOT ONLY HAVE THEY CHARTED A ROUTE ON MY LAND, IT
IS PROPOSED TO RUN DIAGONALLY ACROSS IT, DEPRIVING
ME OF THE FREE USE OF ABOUT 25+ ACRES OF THE
40 I OWN.

IF THIS INDEED HAPPENS, I'LL BE ASHAMED OF MYSELF FOR
PUTTING ON A UNIFORM AND GOING OFF TO A WAR FOR A
COUNTRY THAT PERMITS THIS TRAVESTY.

Dennis Church
DENNIS CHURCH
Loetta Church

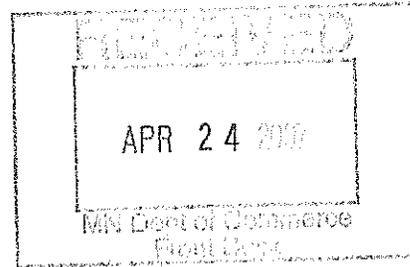
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**Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007**

April 21, 2007

Ms. Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 56101-2198



Attn: Ms. Sharon Ferguson:

I am writing in regards to docket number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

The Nashwauk PUC proposes to route a natural gas pipeline from Blackberry Township to Nashwauk to supply natural gas for the proposed Minnesota Steel project. I am not apposed to the MSI project, but I am very much opposed to the proposed route that the PUC would like to follow. I suspect that Nashwauk's proposed route would be the cheapest route, but I don't believe that their cost should be the only consideration.

Nashwauk's proposed route would use eminent domain to traverse, compromise, and otherwise put restrictions on some of the best lands in Trout Lake Township. This should not be allowed when there are many other options available to them. As I see it, some of the options are as follows:

1. Parallel or replace a line that goes from LaPrairie to Coleraine, then follow Hwy. 169 to Nashwauk.
2. Tap into the 36" line at Swan River and follow Hwy 65 to Nashwauk.
3. Tap into the line at Cohasset and follow the power transmission lines from the Clay Boswell Power Plant to the former Butler Tac. site.
4. Replace the existing 8" line from LaPrairie to Nashwauk.
5. Route a line from Virginia, MN to Nashwauk.

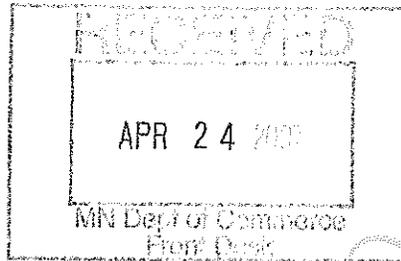
I am sure that there are more options available to the Nashwauk PUC than the ones I have listed, all of which would probably be much more costly to Nashwauk. I don't think that the costs to the Nashwauk PUC should be a consideration when imposing a pipeline on their neighbors in Trout Lake Township. Please force the Nashwauk PUC to look at a less intrusive route.

Respectfully,

Bob Norgord
26739 Birch Dr.
Bovey, MN 55709

April 22, 2007

Ms. Sharon Ferguson
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 56101-2198



Dear Ms. Ferguson:

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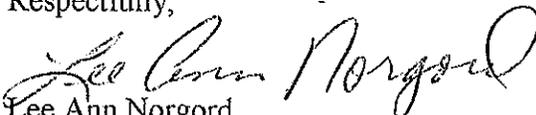
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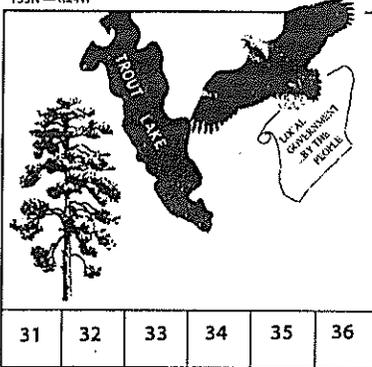
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1. Parallel or replace a line that goes from LaPrairie to Coleraine, then follow Hwy. 169 to Nashwauk.
2. Tap into the 36" line at Swan River and follow Hwy 65 to Nashwauk.
3. Tap into the line at Cohasset and follow the power transmission lines from the Clay Boswell Power Plant to the former Butler Tac. site.
4. Replace the existing 8" line from LaPrairie to Nashwauk.
5. Route a line from Virginia, MN to Nashwauk.

I don't believe eminent domain should come into play in this instance. Why not use any one of these options, which are less intrusive on the taxpaying property owner? Please force the Nashwauk PUC to look at any of these less intrusive routes.

Respectfully,

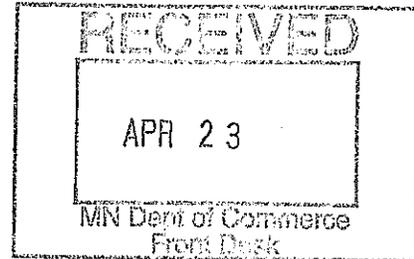

Lee Ann Norgord
26739 Birch Dr.
Bovey, MN 55709



266 #

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

24951 COUNTY ROAD 10 BOVEY, MINNESOTA 55709



April 19, 2007

Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce
85 Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul MN 55101-2198

RE: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

Trout Lake Township Board of Supervisors would like to go on record as being opposed to the routing of a 24 inch, natural gas pipeline through Trout lake Township as described in MPUC docket Number: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481.

The pipeline, as proposed, would traverse some of the best open land in Trout Lake township. Although pipelines are benign in appearance once installed, they are, in reality, very invasive. You can't build on them. You can't put a septic system over them. You have to consider the pipeline when subdividing property for sale, and could lose a land sale because of a pipeline.

The Nashwauk PUC has several other options at its disposal for getting natural gas to Nashwauk. They include the upgrading of an existing 8 inch line from LaPrairie to Naukwauk, upgrading a line from LaPrairie to Coleraine and continuing it on to Nashwauk (2 miles shorter than the preferred route), or installing a new line from Cohasset, following the Minnesota Power transmission lines from the Clay Boswell Power Plant to the former Butler Taconite site.

The cost of the options mentioned above are probably more expensive to the NPUC, but their costs for profit are not a concern to Trout Lake residents who stand to lose land values and control of their property.

Please consider this letter when making your decision.

Thank you sincerely,

Carl Manginen
Carl Manginen, Town Chair-Supervisor



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4/20/07

I believe that the partial Exemption should be granted so the project can ^{move} forward in a timely manner. This plant will provide much needed jobs in the area. I'm on the Lacorite City Council and we as a City approve this application. Thank-you

Deacon Kylander

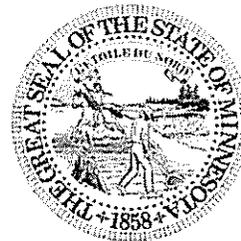
There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

The application by Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted.

When my wife and I first obtained our property, there was an 8" natural gas pipeline going through it. That line started in LaPrairie and ended near Nashwauk. Now the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission wants to put in a 24" line on an entirely different route. This new line would very briefly parallel the existing line on my property. It would open up a 100 ft. swath through my best hunting land and destroy a new corridor of timber.

The existing pipeline severely restricts how I can use or subdivide my property. The more pipelines, the fewer the options I have of what I can do with my property. Pipelines drive land values down. A "for profit" utility should not be able to take the cheapest route at the expense of others when there are other options available to them.

Darrell White

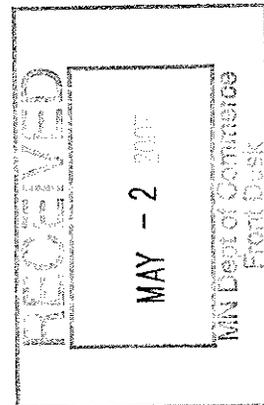
22710 County Road 70

Bovey, MN. 55709

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007



Jeffrey Haase

From: Earl Orf [earlorf@uslink.net]
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2007 11:41 AM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Docket No. PL E-280/GP-06-1481

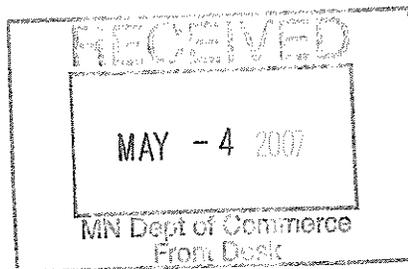
The Nashwauk PUC has asked for an expedited process for the proposed natural gas pipeline to supply gas to the proposed steel mill. Their original plan was drawn up to also provide gas to the proposed Excelsior power plant. The administrative law judges have recommended that the power plant not be built. It would seem, then, that the Nashwauk PUC should be required to propose alternative routes for the pipeline that might be less intrusive on the residents of Trout Lake Township.

We live near the site of the proposed power plant and do not see the need to have the pipeline go to that site any more.

Thanks,

Earl Orf
www.earlorfphotos.com

5/01/07



Attn: Jeffrey Haase

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

Please do not allow the partial exemption for the proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline to be approved. The route as proposed will adversely impact too many homes to make this acceptable.

There are many "Shallow wells" in the Blackberry area that are at a depth of 12-26 feet. The area that concerns me is where the Nashwauk Pipeline will be routed under the existing two 24" Enbridge oil lines. If Enbridge followed PUC guidelines their trench is 7ft. deep and when the Nashwauk is placed under it they could easily reach a depth of 12ft. - thus a great danger of polluting the aquifer. The possible rupture of the gas line under the oil lines would be devastating. This intersection would occur in parcel code 08-010-2304, which I own and had intended to sell as residential. There is presently one family that lives within 200ft. of this intersection and that is one family too many to put at risk!

The route for the Nashwauk Pipeline should be shifted to the East of Blackberry and pass through literally thousands of Tax Forfeit Land and impact far less people and the intersection would occur in an area not populated by humans.

I discussed the alternate route, East of Blackberry, with Matthew Johnson (Natural Resources Technician) with the Itasca County Soil and Water Conservation District in Grand Rapids, MN. 55744. He stated that his office has seen no negative impact on Wetlands that have pipelines routed through them. To allow the pipeline to be routed through populated and high ground with possible future human habitation would be a crime and a sin - so once again - do not allow this!

Sincerely,

Michael Karna

Michael Karna
21205 Bluebird Drive
Grand Rapids, MN. 55744
Phone 218-326-6061

Jeffrey Haase

From: Emilie Zasada [emiliezasada@mac.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 12:06 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: docket no. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Mr. Haase:

This pertains to application for a pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for nashwauk puc, nashwauk-blackberry natural gas pipeline project.

The MPUC should deny the permit and partial exemption application.

Other routes should be considered. There are other viable and logical options.

The MPUC should establish a citizen advisory committee. Siting of pipelines and other transmission projects has a huge impact on private landowners. A representative group of landowners should be part of the evaluation process for this pipeline.

Denial of the exemption need not delay MSI progress. An MSI representative stated at a public meeting that it could initially function using gas from the NNG pipeline that serves the building site.

Thank you.

john zasada
22538 kolp rd.
grand rapids, mn
ph 218-326-4909

Jeffrey Haase

From: Marian Champlin [msc.shopping1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 11:03 AM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: DOCKET NUMBER - PL,E-280/GP-06-1481

Please be advised that as a an owner of considerable acreage North of Blackberry, in the path of the proposed Nashwauk-Blackberry natural gas pipeline project, we strongly urge the following:

The MPUC should deny the permit and partial exemption application for the following reasons:

1. The proposed route cuts through a very populous area although less invasive routes are available,
2. The proposed route was selected to include service for the MEP which is unlikely to be built - therefore there is no need for the pipeline to go to Taconite or to originate at Blackberry.
3. Other routes should be considered, i.e:
 - a. A line runs from LaPrairie (GLG access point) to Coleraine. From there it could follow Hwy 169 to Nashwauk;
 - b. A line runs from LaPrairie (GLG access point) to Nashwauk,
 - c. A line runs from Virginia to Nashwauk
 - d. If it is necessary to create a new ROW to access the GLG line on Hwy 2, the route should start farther east, at Swan River; it could follow Hwy 65; or it could follow an abandoned railroad grade along Hwy 65 and Hwy 16, and then north on the a Auburn Snowmobile Trail to Nashwauk. This route would be approximately the same length as the proposed route and should have comparable or less costs as fewer homeowners are involved.
4. The MPUC should establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to provide an opportunity for input from the public regarding alternate routes, consider and propose routes or route segments and to assist the PUC in evaluating routes.
5. Denial of the exemption application need not delay MSI plans as an MSI representative previously stated at an Itasca County meeting that it could initially function using gas from the NNG pipeline that serves the building site.

Thank you for considering these offerings,

The Champlin family

Jeffrey Haase

From: Sally and Lyle Lauber [slaub@paulbunyan.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 8:01 AM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Docket No. PL E-280/GP-06-1481:

I wish to be on record as being against the expedited process for determining a route for the gas line to be installed for the Minnesota steel project, which is to run through Trout Lake Township. Such a practice shuts out the public's input on this very important matter.

Lyle Lauber
50505 E. Dixon Lake Road
Squaw Lake, MN 56681

Jeffrey Haase

From: Rodney Anderson [rodsplans@comcast.net]

Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2007 6:57 AM

To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us

Subject: Docket No. PLE-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Sir; It is very important to me as an individual to see public participation in such an important decision making process. I lived in New Brighton when that gas line exploded and innocent people died because that line was place in the wrong area. Give the public a chance to at least suggest alternate routes. I understand that the steel plant does not need this to get production started.

A little more time and public input could have saved lives in New Brighton.

Thank you,

Rodney Anderson

Jeffrey Haase

From: OJSKI@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 09, 2007 7:56 AM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: MPUC DOCKET NUMBER: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

MPUC DOCKET NUMBER: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures should be denied.

My parent's property has an existing pipeline and another one would destroy a large area of older growth trees. If additional pipelines are placed on my parents property they will have less options with what they can do with *their* land. Pipelines drive property values down.

Christie Babcock

See what's free at AOL.com.



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007. 5-9-07

The MPUC should deny the permit and partial exemption.

Existing natural gas pipelines should be considered

Consider a new route at Swan River, follow Hwy 65, or the abandoned railroad grade along Hwy 65 & Hwy 16 then north on Auburn Snowmobile Trail to Nashwauk, if the existing ones cannot be upgraded.

This proposed pipeline will be coming across alot of our property. Our land value will go down and it will be hard to sell land with a 70' right away on the land.

We are not against the Steel Mill Project. Why couldnt they use the Northern Natural Gas pipeline that already serves the project site?

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet *in Trout Lake Twp.*

**Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007**

*Kay Cleveland
Property Owner
23491 Cty Rd 434
Bovey, Minn.
55709*



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

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5-8-07

map - Figure 9

55-24-35

"Flying K Landing Strip"

This is no longer a landing strip.

So hopefully if approved the pipeline could be moved more south on our homestead property.

Farther away from our homes.

Kay Cleveland

Ed & Kay Cleveland
23491 County Rd. 434
Bovey, MN 55709

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

**Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007**

Jeffrey Haase

From: Cathy Krumrei [cathy@thecarverscorner.com]
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 7:51 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Pipeline concerns

In reference to docket number (PLE-280/GP-06-1481)

Dear Mr. Haase,

My family resides in Blackberry Minnesota within the proposed grey area of the MPUC pipeline. I have lived here for over 36 years and the biggest fear I have had is in spring with the bears. Now I have some serious concerns and fears of having the pipeline within throwing distance and real concern of the area of Blackberry destroying the beauty and peacefulness this area has drawn my family to. Blackberry is NOT the best route to have the pipeline going threw. We all know that land has to be taken but there are other routes brought to my attention that will be better then destroying this area. One is following the Minnesota Power transmission lines. These routes have already been established and would not affect the homes, land and people's water wells that would surely do harm to our beautiful land in Blackberry. Our property that we have lived on and paid taxes on and have put our hearts and souls into and providing our family with a country style living will be without a value if that pipeline comes into the Blackberry area. There ARE alternatives! Take Blackberry off the pipeline route and deny the partial exemption.

Sincerely

Cathy Krumrei
Blackberry Minnesota

Jeffrey Haase

From: Twaddle [shirik@lcp2.net]
Sent: Monday, May 14, 2007 4:22 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Docket Number PL E-280/GP-06-1481

I am writing concerning the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission's request for an expedited procedure for a natural gas pipeline from Blackbery to Nashwauk for the MSI plant. I believe that the MPUC should deny the request for the fast procedure and ask the Nashwauk PUC to submit alternate routes. I am reminded of Excelsior Energy's request to build a coal fired power plant near the city of Taconite. I hope that the MPUC will abide by the administrative judge's recommendation that the Excelsior request be denied. In my opinion Excelsior Energy has lied to the people of Minnesota with regard to their proposal. If Excelsior's request is denied then there is no need to have this gas pipeline passing anywhere near Taconite and a different route would probably better serve the citizens of Minnesota.

Thank You:
Richard Twaddle
26646 Eagle view Drive
Bovey, MN 55709

Jeffrey Haase

From: Dennis Church [dc@beartoothbullets.zzn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 15, 2007 12:57 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Nashwauk Pipeline Proposal

RE: DOCKET # PL, E-280/GP-06-1481
APPLICATION FOR A PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM
PIPELINE ROUTE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR NASHWAUK PUC, NASHWAUK-
BLACKBERRY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

The proposed route through Trout Lake Township will have adverse effects on many private property owners in Trout Lake Township. As to the way it will affect me personally, it (the route) is mapped to cut diagonally across my 40 acres, reducing the value of my property by a minimum of 50% if I want to sell. I did not buy my property with an intent to sell in the future, I had expected to finish out my life here. If the pipeline is permitted on the proposed route, the value of my property is, to me, reduced to zero I can't coexist with it.

There are several possible alternate routes using existing ROW. There is no need to disregard the rights of the property owners of Trout Lake. The proposed route follows the route mapped by Excelsior Energy, from Blackberry to Taconite. After the ruling by Administrative Law Judges, the Excelsior project is probably a dead issue, so there is absolutely no reason for the pipeline to go first to Taconite, then to Nashwauk. If no existing ROW suits the purpose (very hard to believe), then a new one could be established along Highway 65 from Swan River to Nashwauk, minimizing the impact on private property owners.

Dennis Church
27552 Birch Drive
Bovey MN 55709
(218) 245-2819

Free web based/POP E-mail on Beartooth Bullets. <http://www.beartoothbullets.com>
Get your own email service at [ZZN.COM](http://www.zzn.com).



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

To whom it concerns;

I would like to go on record as being opposed to this pipeline going through Blackberry township. As a landowner directly affected by this project I must say that I have major misgivings about this project and a great deal of mental anguish. The plans that I have for developing our property to fund our retirement would be absolutely destroyed. There is no way that I could do what I have planned with a pipeline running through our property.

The safety of these pipelines is also of great concern. With lines leaking and exploding all the time, it is like living with the proverbial sword hanging over your head.

More time is needed to plan alternative routes. There are a number of options that should be given serious consideration before creating a brand new corridor of destruction. With the Mesaba Energy project as good as dead it is not necessary to originate in Blackberry and go to Lacovite first. Following Hwy 65 from Swan River would be a good place to start. With a citizen advisory committee established it would allow for more meaningful opportunities for public input.

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Sincerely,

Clarence Randall

**Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007**

Clarence and Ellen Randall
24403 Evergreen Drive
Bovey, MN 55709

Jeffrey Haase

From: Northrddesigns@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 11:37 PM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Cc: northrddesigns@.com
Subject: DOCKET NUMBER-PL,E-280/GP-06-1481

TO-MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE&PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION APPLICATION FOR PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM PIPELINE ROUTE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR NASHWAUK PUC. NASHWAUK-BLACKBERRY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE.

THE MPUC SHOULD DENY THE PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION APPLICATION THIS PROJECT WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON HUMANS AND OUR ENVIRONMENT A NEW 23 MILE RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) WILL INTERFERE WITH OUR PROPERTY, OUR PEACE OF MIND AND THE LAND-USE PLANS OF MORE THAN 100 PROPERTY OWNERS IN OUR AREA. THIS WILL ALSO DEMINISH THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTY.

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP IS ONE OF THE MOST POPULOUS IN THE COUNTY AND WE ALREADY HAVE NATURAL GAS PIPELINES RUNNING THROUGH IT.

BLACKBERRY TOWNSHIP ALREADY HAS OTHER PIPELINES AND MORE ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGE.

THE PROPOSED ROUTE DOES NOT MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACT INHERENT IN SUCH A PIPELINE. AS THE ROUTE IS PLANNED NOW IT WILL BE GOING THROUGH THREE OF OUR 40 ACRE PARCELS OF LAND. THE IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE IN OUR AREA WILL BE TOTALLY EFFECTED. OUR WOODS HAVE BEEN UNTOUCHED AND ARE MANAGED WILDLIFE HABITAT REGIONS.

WE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED WITH THE PIPELINE GOING THROUGH OUR PROPERTY BECAUSE WE PROVIDE SENIOR CARE FOR FIVE SENIORS IN OUR HOME. OUR SENIORS PEACE OF MIND AND SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY. THIS IS A MEGA ISSUE FOR US AS WELL AS THE SENIORS UNDER OUR CARE.

THE PROPOSED ROUTE WAS SELECTED TO INCLUDE SERVICE FOR THE MESABA ENERGY PROJECT WHICH LIKELY WILL NOT BE BUILT-(seeALJS' REPORT, DOCKET NO. E-6472/M-05-1993)AND SO WILL NOT NEED ACCESS TO THIS NATURAL GAS. THEREFORE THERE IS NO NEED FOR THE PIPELINE TO GO TO TACONITE OR TO ORIGINATE AT BLACKBERRY. THE PROPOSED ROUTE CONTAINS A 4.2 MILE SEGMENT TO FOLLOW A "PROPOSED" 230 KV HVTL-THIS LINE IS ALSO PART OF THE MEP, WHICH LIKELY WILL NOT BE BUILT.

OTHERS ROUTES SHOULD CONSIDERED

* EXISTING NATURALGAS PIPELINE ROWS, SOME CONNECTING TO THE GREAT LAKES GAS 36" PIPELINE ALONG HWY 2, COULD BE SHARED OR PARALLELED, OR THE PIPELINE COULD BE UPGRADED .

* A LINE RUNS FROM LAPRAIRIE(GLG access point)TO COLERAINE. FROM THERE IT COULD FOLLOW HWY 169 TO NASHWAUK:OR PROCEED NORTHEAST THEN EAST TO NASHWAUK ALONG THE ROUTE.

* A LINE RUNS FROM LAPRAIRIE (GLG access point) TO NASHWAUK.

* A LINE RUNS FROM VIRGINIA TO NASHWAUK

* ANOTHER EXISTING ROW IS AN ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE RUNNING FROM COHASSET (GLG access point) TO NASHWAUK

* IF IT IS NECESSARY TO CREATE A NEW ROW TO ACCESS THE GLG LINE ON HWY 2. THE ROUTE SHOULD START FARTHER EAST, AT SWAN RIVER, IT COULD FOLLOW HWY 65, OR IT COULD ALSO FOLLOW AN ABANDONED RAILROAD GRADE ALONG HWY 65 AND HWY 16, THEN NORTH ON THE AUBURN SNOWMOBILE TRAIL TO NASHWAUK. THIS ROUTE WOULD BE ABOUT THE SAME LENGTH AS THE PROPOSED ROUTE AND SHOULD HAVE COMPARABLE COSTS.

THE MPUC SHOULD ESTABLISH A CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

* TO PROVIDE MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT-RECEIVE SUGGESTIONS REGARDING ALTERNATE ROUTES-CONSIDER AND PROPOSE ROUTES OR ROUTE SEGMENTS-AID AND ADVISE THE PUC IN EVALUATING ROUTES.

* DENIAL OF EXEMPTION NEED NOT DELAY MSI PROGRESS

* AN MSI REPRESENTATIVE PREVIOUSLY STATED AT AN ITASCA COUNTY MEETING THAT IT COULD

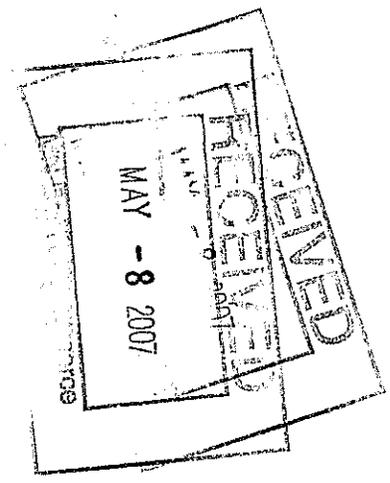
INITIALLY FUNCTION USING GAS FROM THE NNG PIPELINE THAT SERVES THE BUILDING SITE.

SINCERELY,
EDWARD MITCHELL
PATRICIA MITCHELL
BARBARA GELO
ALICE LAINE
TRAVERSE FINKE
GAIL OHREN
24359 NORTH ROAD
BOVEY,MN. 55709

See what's free at AOL.com.

95. ^{Gas} Pipe Line Electric Lines
Mesaba Energy Project
does not need to
go to Frontline.

1-(218) 245-1572



Sharon
Jef6
PLF-280/GP-03-1481
May 4-07
Hester Nance

I have a pipe line right
of-way.
Also a Right-of-way
given up for CO#70,
SO I thank our

Family has given all
to the Public needs,
(I want another Road)

Mesaba Energy Project,
93% of survey Tract take
people did not want,
a FAIL project with
all the costs and
paid bill of the Company;

MSI Stock project is a Sound
project 100% for it,
Renew and electric line
in other areas;

Thank you for your time!
Wendy Kanga Family



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

- Why can't you use the 2 existing lines ~~off of Blackberry~~ ^{off of Blackberry} lines that cross Trout Lake Township now? Just upgrade to bigger pipes & reduce intrusion into new land.
- Why not use the abandoned lines in Nashwauk for the defunct Butler Township mine? Also - already existing & saves intrusion on new land
- Getting so close to dwellings causes a safety issue in case of leaks, explosions & the PCB contaminants
- We object to all the new acreage that will be lost & damaged to a new pipe line instead of using the 2 existing lines in Blackberry or the abandoned one from the mines.

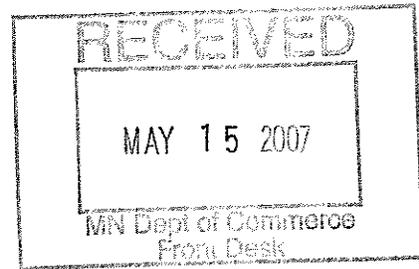
If Excelsior also goes in, we will lose approx. 140 ft. of permanent easement of our land. It is taking too much of personal property. Also, Excelsior stated in the 5/7/2006 newspaper, that they would not come any closer to 400 ft. of dwellings. This proposed line is way under that, for many people.

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007

MAY 13, 2007



RE: TO DOCKET NUMBER PL-280/GP-06-1481

THE MATTER OF PARTIAL EXEMPTION APPLICATION FOR THE PROPOSED NASHWAUK TO BLACKBERRY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT SUBMITTED BY THE NASHWAUK PUBLIC UTILITES COMMISSION

WE ARE WRITING THIS LETTER TO ASK YOU TO PLEASE STOP AND TAKE ANOTHER LOOK FOR ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR THE PROPOSED GAS PIPELINE THAT WOULD CAUSE UNDUE HARDSHIPS TO OUR FAMILIES.

AS WE LIVE ON LITTLE SUCKER LAKE, SURROUNDED BY FOUR OF OUR CHILDREN, THIS WAS PLANNED TO BE ABLE TO HAVE A SUPPORT SYSTEM IN "OUR GOLDEN YEARS".

IS IT REALLY NECESSARY TO USE THIS ROUTE?? HAVE OTHER ROUTES BEEN CONSIDERED?? IF NOT, PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING OTHER PLANS TO RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON US.

THANK YOU,

WE ARE ,

Two handwritten signatures in cursive. The top signature is "Jerald J. Wright" and the bottom signature is "Ann S. Wright".

JERALD J. AND ANN WRIGHT
18361 LITTLE SUCKER LAKE ROAD
NASHWAUK, MN 55769



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

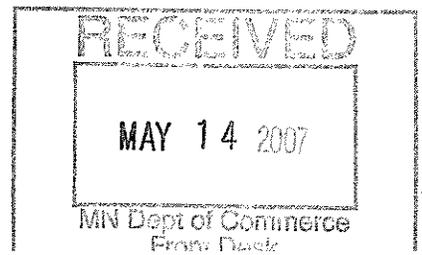
Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

- Even if the pipe is made of steel, it can rust. Coatings can wear off. If the inside has to be cleaned of rust, what about the outside? If things rust away, then they will leak.
- If MN Steel is going to use the old Butler Mine site, then all the more reason to use the existing line already there, thru Nashwauk
- Where ever the new line goes in, whether a new or existing line, why not make it big enough to begin with, to handle more than one company/business? Then more land won't need to be invaded for more pipelines, along side of each other.
- Have the 2 different companies join together, making one, thus handling everything together & sharing one pipe line.
- Why would a U.S. company need a foreign country to buy it, to sell, & then ship the product to a 3rd country (Canada) to finish it? What happened to the U.S.A. part, or made from beginning to end in the U.S.A.?

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

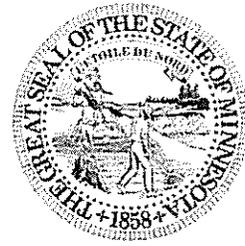
- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007





Public Comment Sheet

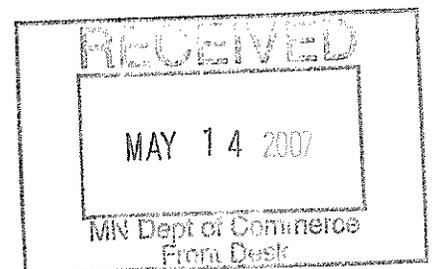


In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through May 18, 2007.

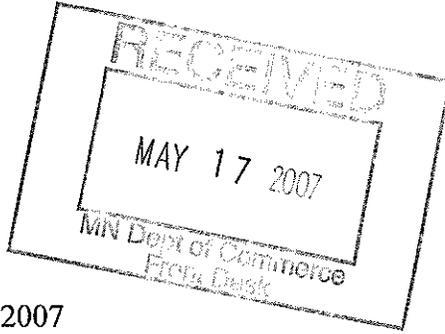
- Use the long version — have more time to find another, more suitable route for the pipeline, not the short version, thus pushing for the project to go through faster.
- you do have other routes available, you can use them. If they are a little bit longer, the extra cost won't be hurting you that much, financially, especially since Jula bought the company itself, already.
- Our property is only 660 X 660 — if you cut in through us, we won't have any land left that is usable, plus it will be way too close to our dwelling.



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007



May 14,2007

RE: docket # PL-280/GP-06-1481

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I AM WRITING TO YOU TO EXPRESS MY DEEP CONCERN ON THE PROPOSED ROUTE FOR THE PUC PIPELINE.

THE CURRENT ROUTE OF THE PIPELINE WILL DISECT 80 ACRES OF MATURE FOREST. IT WILL ALSO DISRUPT MY PRIVACY AND GREATLY DEPRECIATE MY PROPERTY VALUE.

I AM STRONGLY ADVISING YOU TO PLEASE DENY THE PARTIAL EXEMPTION AND FORCE THE NPUC TO PROVIDE ALTERNATE ROUETS WHICH MAYBE MORE FRIENDLY TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE.

THANK YOU ,

Joey J. Knight

*Joey Knight
18351 LittleSucker Lake Rd.
Nashwanet MN 55769*



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

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In reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481, I firmly oppose the MSI Project as it will have a significant effect on human health and our environment. The law clearly states that an advisory committee must be chosen from the people here to look at alternate routes for the gas pipeline before a route is chosen. This has not been done, yet a route has been chosen. A committee must be chosen to look at alternate routes before any decision can be made.

Please bring justice to this situation - look for alternate routes. The MPUC should deny the permit + partial exemption application.
Sophia Randle



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

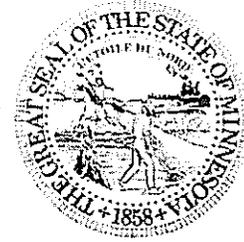
**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**



MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption
Application for the Proposed
Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas
Pipeline Project submitted by the
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

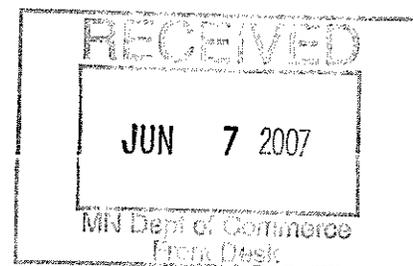


MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

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It has been brought to my attention that you have chosen a route for the MSI gas pipeline without following the law. There are other routes to be considered and I suggest that you let us choose an advisory committee, as the law states, from local citizens to be on this committee.

This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E-280/GP-06-1481.



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

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Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007



Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission



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

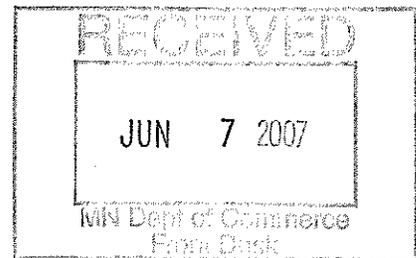
Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through June 8, 2007.

As a land owner and resident of Itasca County, I strongly oppose both the Mesaba Project and MSI. Both of them will destroy our health, our environment, our lakes, and the economy of our county.

In reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E_ 280/GP-1481, count me against them.

You did not choose an advisory committee which makes me wonder how many other things have you hidden from us.

Dorothy Stieh



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
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- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007



Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

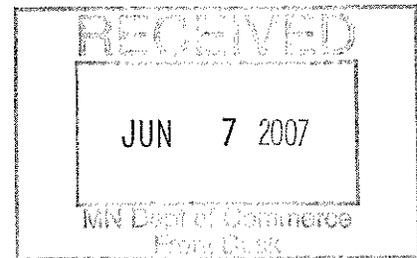


MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

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After attending the meeting at Nashwauk and hearing a lawyer tell us that you had not followed the law in choosing the route for the gas pipeline, I strongly oppose anything further being done until an advisory committee is chosen and the other routes discussed in this committee. This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E-280/GP-06-1481.

Dorothy Glush



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

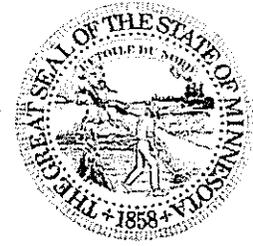
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**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**



6/5/07

Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

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This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E-280/GP-06-1481.

For your consideration,

Josh Randle

Josh Randle



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

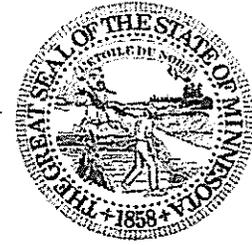
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June 8, 2007**



Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

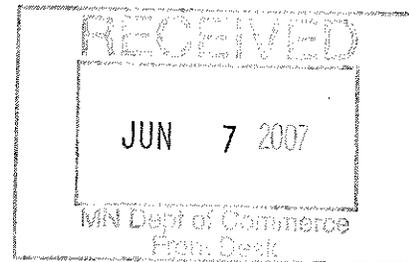


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Thank you,
Rachel Randle
Rachel Randle



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

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**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

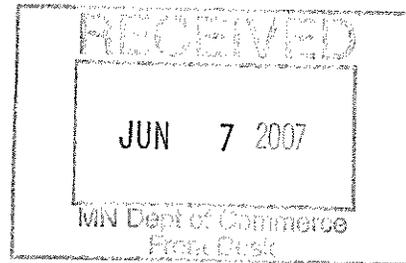
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6-5-07

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Thank you,
CeCe Randle
cece Randle



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

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- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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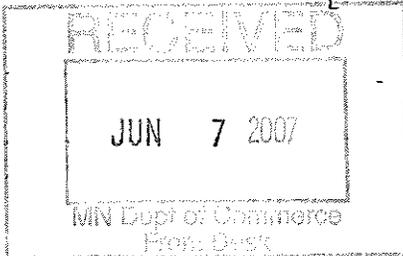
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for my safety - please find another route.

DESIREE RANDLE

Thank you!

P.S. I am scared!



There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

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Comments must be received by June 8, 2007

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

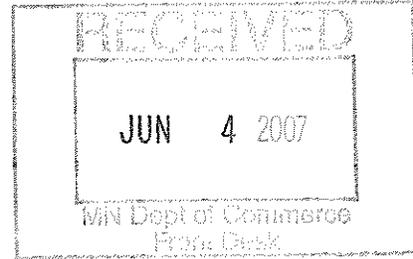


*P.O. Box 166
Bovey, MN 55709*



May 24, 2007

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



Re: Comment on Docket PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

The Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) is a joint powers board on the western Mesabi Iron Range in Itasca County. WMMPB's members include most of the local governmental units through which would pass the natural gas pipeline proposed by the City of Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission under the referenced docket.

WMMPB has stayed abreast of developments associated with the proposed pipeline project and the main user, Minnesota Steel, of the natural gas that would be transported by the pipeline. At its meeting on May 10, 2007, WMMPB members voted as follows and requested that their position be formally provided to the Department of Commerce for entry into the docket record:

“WMMPB supports the route of the gas pipeline that seems to be the most feasible, both economically and environmentally.”

Thank you for consideration of our position.

Sincerely,

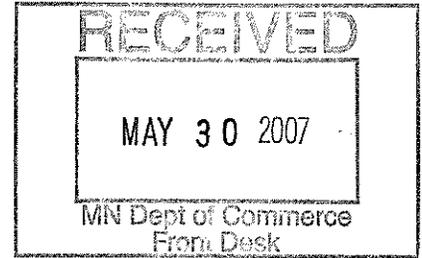
David A. Lotti, Chair

A Joint Powers Board			Officers:	Staff:
Arbo Township	Greenway Township	City of Marble	David Lotti, Chair	R.D. Learmont, Interim Coordinator
City of Bovey	Itasca County	City of Nashwauk	John Dimich, Vice Chair	Karen Barton, Recording Secretary/Treasurer
City of Calumet	City of Keewatin	Nashwauk Township	Carter Pettersen, Secretary/Treasurer	e-mail to: dlearmon@2z.net
City of Coleraine	Lone Pine Township	Trout Lake Township		
City of Grand Rapids				

Blackberry Township



ITASCA COUNTY
GRAND RAPIDS, MINNESOTA 55744
25349 Dove Lane • Grand Rapids, MN 55744



May 10, 2007

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

RE: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

It is the understanding of Blackberry Township Board of Supervisors that the Nashwauk PUC has submitted to MPUC for consideration a 24 inch natural gas pipeline from Blackberry to Nashwauk to serve the Minnesota Steel Plant. It is also the understanding of the Board that Nashwauk PUC has requested an expedited procedure that would provide a permit without consideration of other routes. The rules provide that an applicant submit alternate routes and explain why the preferred route will have the least impact on people and the environment, and by requesting an expedited procedure, consideration of alternative routes can be waived.

The Blackberry Township Board of Supervisors is requesting the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission deny the permit and partial exemption application submitted by Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission based on the premise that alternative routes must be considered.

We are not opposed to the pipeline. We are, however, very much opposed to the proposed routing of this line through Blackberry Township without consideration of alternative routes. Granting this permit without these considerations is borderline irresponsible and does not best serve the majority of those affected. We encourage the process of considering all routing options to determine which route would impact the least number of people while still serving the needs of Nashwauk PUC.

On behalf of Blackberry Township Board of Supervisors,
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Nelson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gary Nelson
Blackberry Township Chairperson



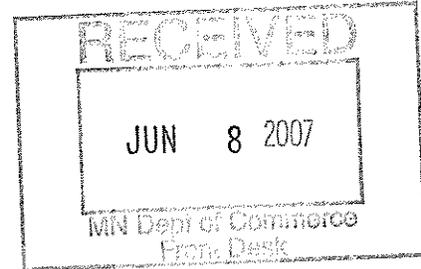
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
190 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 401
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1638

JUN 07 2007

REPLY TO
ATTENTION

Operations
Regulatory (MVP-2005-546-JKA)

Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer
Department of Commerce
85 Seventh Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198



Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

We have received the document entitled "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 (NPUC) Nashwauk-Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project (docket number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481) dated March 2007. Due to limited staff and resources, it is unlikely that U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory staff will review or comment on this document until we receive a jurisdictional determination request and/or a permit application. In lieu of a specific response, please consider the following general information concerning our regulatory program that may apply to the proposed project.

If the proposal involves activity in navigable waters of the United States, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10). Section 10 prohibits the construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit.

If the proposal involves deposition of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including discharges associated with mechanical land clearing, it may be subject to the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA Section 404). Waters of the United States include navigable waters, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands (33 CFR § 328.3). CWA Section 301(a) prohibits discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit under Section 404. Information about the Corps permitting process can be obtained online at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/regulatory>.

The Corps' evaluation of a Section 10 and/or a Section 404 permit application involves multiple analyses, including (1) evaluating the proposal's impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (33 CFR part 325), (2) determining whether the proposal is contrary to the public interest (33 CFR § 320.4), and (3) in the case of a Section 404

permit, determining whether the proposal complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (Guidelines) (40 CFR part 230).

If the proposal requires a Section 404 permit application, the Guidelines specifically require that "no discharge of dredged or fill material shall be permitted if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem, so long as the alternative does not have other significant adverse environmental consequences" (40 CFR § 230.10(a)). Time and money spent on the proposal prior to applying for a Section 404 permit cannot be factored into the Corps' decision whether there is a less damaging practicable alternative to the proposal.

If an application for a Corps permit has not yet been submitted, the project proposer may request a pre-application consultation meeting with the Corps to obtain information regarding the data, studies or other information that will be necessary for the permit evaluation process. A pre-application consultation meeting is strongly recommended if the proposal has substantial impacts to waters of the United States, or if it is a large or controversial project.

For further information or to request a pre-application consultation meeting, please contact Jon K. Ahlness at 651-290-5381.

Sincerely,


for Robert J. Whiting
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Copy furnished:

E. Milton Latvala
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
301 Central Avenue
Nashwauk, Minnesota 55769

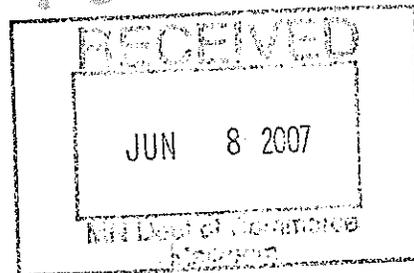
Scott Ek, MnDNR

Deb McGovern, Minnesota Steel Industries, LLC

Jeff Haase



BRUNENKANT & CROSS, LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
805 FIFTEENTH STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1101
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005-2289



(202) 408-0700
FAX: (202) 408-5959
E-MAIL: BC@BC-LAW.NET

June 7, 2007

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

RE: *In the Matter of the Application for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Partial Exemption from Pipeline Route Selection Procedures for the Nashwauk-Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project;*
MNPUC Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

Please find enclosed the comments of BP Canada Energy Marketing Corp. in the above-referenced proceeding.

If you have any questions regarding the enclosed comments, please contact me at 202.408.0700.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Joelle K. Ogg
Attorney for
BP Canada Energy Marketing Corp.

Enclosures

STATE OF MINNESOTA
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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)	Docket No. PL, E-280/ GP-06-1481
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**COMMENTS OF
BP CANADA ENERGY MARKETING CORP.**

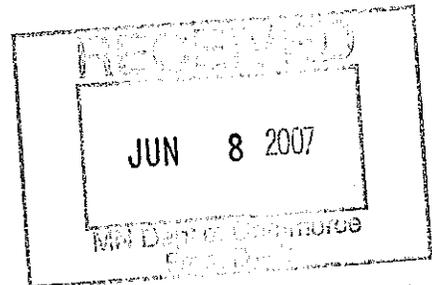
Pursuant to the Minnesota Department of Commerce's Notice of Application for a Pipeline Routing Permit and Public Information Meetings, dated May 7, 2007, in the above captioned docket, BP Canada Energy Marketing Corp. ("BP") hereby submits these comments regarding the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission's Nashwauk-Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project. In support of these comments, BP states the following:

I.
COMMUNICATIONS

Communications and correspondence regarding these comments should be directed to:

Frederick T. Kolb
BP America Inc.
501 WestLake Park Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77253
Telephone: (281) 366-5009
Fax: (281) 336-5901
E-mail: kolbft@bp.com

Brian Troicuk
Regulatory Affairs Manager
BP Canada Energy Company
240 4th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2H8
Telephone: (403) 233-1356
Fax: (403) 233-5667
Email: brian.troicuk@bp.com



and

Jon L. Brunenkant
Joelle K. Ogg
Brunenkant & Cross, LLP
805 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1101
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 408-0700
Fax: (202) 408-5959
Email: brunenkant@bc-law.net
Email: ogg@bc-law.net

II. COMMENTS

On March 6, 2007, the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission submitted an application for a pipeline routing permit and a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for the Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project. The proposed Project will include a 23-mile natural gas pipeline beginning near the town of Blackberry, Minnesota and terminating within the city of Nashwauk. The proposed pipeline is designed to deliver a maximum of 206 MMcf/day of natural gas, with the natural gas to be used to operate Minnesota Steel's planned Nashwauk Taconite Reduction Plant and to also potentially serve other industrial customers near the city of Nashwauk. The new Minnesota Steel iron ore processing plant will use the natural gas for taconite processing and other plant operations.

BP has a direct interest in the subject filing because BP is a potential natural gas supplier to Minnesota Steel and other industrial customers. BP has a substantial interest in, and will be directly and immediately affected by, the Commission's actions in this proceeding. As a potential natural gas supplier to the Minnesota Steel plant and other industrial customers, BP supports the Nashwauk-Blackberry Pipeline Project because the proposed pipeline will create additional natural gas capacity and, as a result, introduce incremental natural gas supply to

Minnesota. Thus, BP requests that the Commission approve the Nashwauk-Blackberry Pipeline Project on a timely basis.

III.
CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, for the reasons identified above, BP respectfully requests that the Commission approve the proposed Nashwauk-Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project on a timely basis.

Respectfully submitted,

BP CANADA ENERGY MARKETING CORP.

Frederick T. Kolb
BP America Inc.
501 WestLake Park Blvd.
Room 16.150
Houston, TX 77079

June 7, 2007

By:



Jon L. Brunenkant
Joelle K. Ogg
Brunenkant & Cross, LLP
805 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1101
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 408-0700
Fax: (202) 408-5959
Email: brunenkant@bc-law.net
Email: ogg@bc-law.net

Attorneys for BP Canada Energy Marketing Corp.



24315 County Road 10
Bovey MN 55709-8350



June 6, 2007

RE: DOCKET NUMBER - PL, E- 280/GP-06-1481. Application for a pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for Nashwauk PUC. Nashwauk - Blackberry natural gas pipeline project.

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

Dear Sharon Ferguson,

I am writing you to request that you deny the permit and partial exemption application for this project. Not only would the proposed pipeline pass through one of the most populous townships in the county but it also would impose an undue and significant effect on the inhabitants as well as the environment. The proposed 23-mile right-of-way would interfere with the property rights, peace of mind and land use plans of well over 100 home owners as well significantly diminish the intrinsic value of their property. We already have two other pipelines running through the township, we don't need another one.

This route was chosen to include natural gas service for the Mesaba Energy Project (MEP): (MPUC Docket No.E-6472/M-05-1993) which will likely not be built. This would eliminate the need for the line to go to Taconite (near which MEP was to be built) or indeed for it to originate in Blackberry. The route also was chosen because it was to follow a "proposed" 230 kV HVTL for 4.2 miles. This power line was also part of MEP and again, likely not be built.

The proposed route for the pipeline does not minimize the adverse effect inherent in such a pipeline which must be the most important consideration. On the contrary, it was chosen because it was the most direct route to Taconite, site of the questionable MEP.

Other routes must be considered. There are right-of-ways (ROW) in place now that could be utilized to supply this project. A line exists running from La Prairie to Nashwauk. Another runs from Virginia to Nashwauk. Still another runs from LaPrairie to Coleraine. This particular line could be extended to proceed from there to Nashwauk. Another existing ROW is an electrical transmission line running from Cohasset (Great Lakes Gas access point) to Nashwauk.

Should it be necessary to establish a new ROW to access the Great Lakes Gas line along Hwy. 2 then start it further east at Swan River. From there it could proceed along Hwy. 65 or follow an abandoned railroad grade along Hwy. 65 and Hwy. 16, and then north along the Auburn Snowmobile Trail to Nashwauk. This route would be of comparable length to the proposed route and should presumably have a comparable cost.

The denial of an exemption for this project need not delay the Minnesota Steel Project (MSI) which this pipeline was proposed to serve. An MSI

June 6, 2007

representative stated previously at an Itasca County meeting that it could initially function using gas from the Northern Natural Gas pipeline that serves the building site.

In closing I suggest the MPUC establish a Citizen Advisory Committee in order to provide a meaningful opportunity for input from the public, to receive suggestions regarding alternate routes, consider and propose route or route segments, and to aid and advise the PUC in the evaluation of those routes.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell Bonham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Mitchell Bonham

Adam S

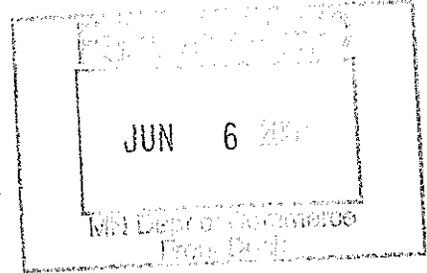
RGGS Land & Minerals, LTD., L.P.

202 South Second Avenue

Virginia Minnesota 55768

June 4, 2007

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



RE: Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline- Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission
MPUC Docket Number: PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Dear Ms. Ferguson:

RGGS Land & Minerals, LTD., L.P. has received notices of the application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) for the Nashwauk -Blackberry natural gas pipeline. The maps and exhibits included in these notices indicate that the proposed pipeline route involves numerous RGGS properties. While supportive of the initial project (Minnesota Steel Industries) requiring this pipeline, RGGS does have some concerns regarding the potential encumbrance of minerals along the route.

As proposed, the pipeline route would pass through an area containing a mineral resource (taconite) largely owned by RGGS. While recognizing that attempts were made to locate the pipeline within existing right-of-ways, such a pipeline would be a significant encumbrance to the potential mining and extraction of that mineral resource. To reduce the concern and impact of this potential encumbrance, RGGS suggests and requests that provisions be included in the permitting process for relocation of the pipeline if necessary for mining purposes. RGGS would propose a specification for a one-time relocation to be paid for by the pipeline owner-NPUC- if necessary for mining purposes. Such language is proposed to be included in any easement document discussions between RGGS and NPUC.

RGGS supports and hopes the MSI project becomes a successful reality- the project has much potential to benefit the area's economy and citizens. Discussing and obtaining an easement document containing the above-mentioned relocation provision would be a positive step in insuring the success of MSI without negatively impacting the mining potential of the surrounding properties. To continue further discussions on this situation and our concerns, please contact me at 218-749-1293.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Lindholm".

Larry Lindholm

cc: Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

DOCKET NUMBER - PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

Application for a pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures for Nashwauk PUC, Nashwauk-Blackberry natural gas pipeline project.

To MN Department of Commerce and MN Public Utilities Commission:

It is important for the MN DOC and the MPUC to deny the application for a pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection for Nashwauk PUC.

There are several issues concerning this permit;

- If this permit and partial exemption is granted, no other routes will be considered.
- Better options are available and the NPUC should work with the Itasca County Commissioners, landowners, MSI, and the MPUC to locate the best possible solution. A Citizen Advisory Committee should be established to accomplish this goal.
- There is no need to hurry the permit process as representatives of MSI have stated that at start up on existing pipeline can be utilized that is already in place at the site.
- The current route was selected because it would also service the Mesaba Energy Project (MEP). There are serious issues regarding the MEP and its doubtful whether the project will move forward.
- Property values are subject to drop with pipelines running through, which means loss of revenue for the county.
- Homeowners have to disclose the fact that pipeline(s) run through their property to prospective buyers and may have difficulty selling their home/property resulting in foreclosures.

There are other issues that should be taken seriously.

- Blackberry Township already has pipelines running through it and more are being planned.
- Trout Lake Township is one of the most populated townships in Itasca County and also already has two pipelines running through it.

I mention the two above concerns because I was witness to a major high-pressure natural gas pipeline explosion that took place this past April 29, 2007 at 4:30 a.m. It was the Panhandle Eastern pipeline that runs from Texas to Michigan. The explosion took place in a rural area just north of Pawnee, IL. This pipeline runs through densely populated areas and it was very fortunate that it didn't explode in one of those areas. Vinyl siding melted off a house 1/3 of a mile away. Livestock at a nearby farm had their hair singed and many were bleeding from the nose. I've attached the two articles that came out in the local paper while I was there.

Pipeline explosions may be a rarity, but they do happen contrary to what an SEH representative claims. The MPUC must take into consideration the consequences if one pipeline exploded, what would happen to the other pipelines on the same route?

It is therefore important to deny the application for a pipeline routing permit and partial exemption from pipeline route selection for Nashwauk PUC.

Sincerely,
Amanda Nesheim
Itasca County Resident

Cardinals hit by tragedy

Josh Hancock, a member of the St. Louis bullpen, was killed in a car crash early Sunday in St. Louis.

PAGE 25

Knowledge of self

It's important to maintain personal records of your health history, according to some doctors.

PAGE 9



Firm roots

Joan Walters, a former budget director under Gov. Jim Edgar, was drawn back to Springfield after her retirement.

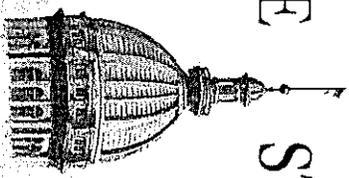
PAGE 6

Lacking Lincoln

The official "Seven Wonders of Illinois" list leaves off Springfield's favorite son.

PAGE 8

THE STATE



THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN ILLINOIS™

Journal Register

MONDAY

APRIL 30, 2007

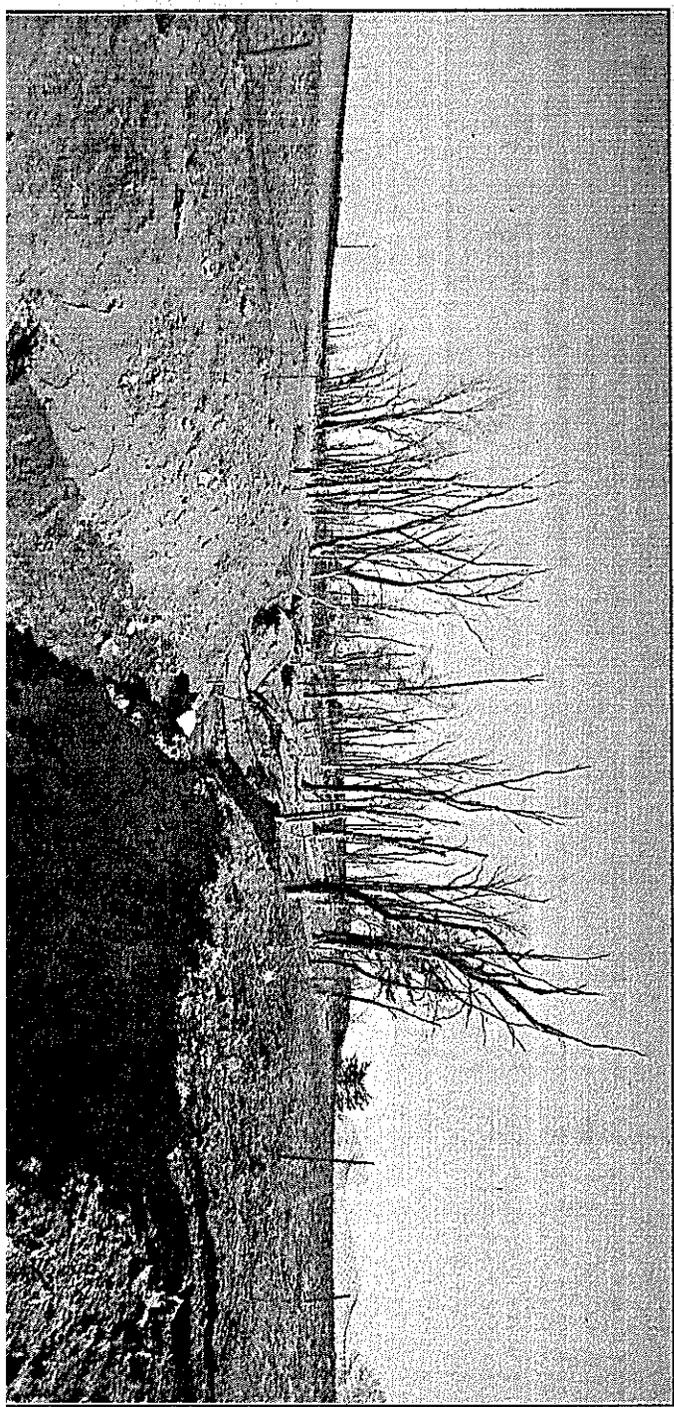
Enos Park ready for renovation

By JOHN REYNOLDS
STAFF WRITER

As it stands now, Enos Park isn't the best-looking green space in the Springfield Park District.

The 3 1/2 acre neighborhood park, located near Seventh and Enterprise streets on the city's north end, has several trees, picnic tables and benches, but there aren't a lot of decorations or amenities to set it apart.

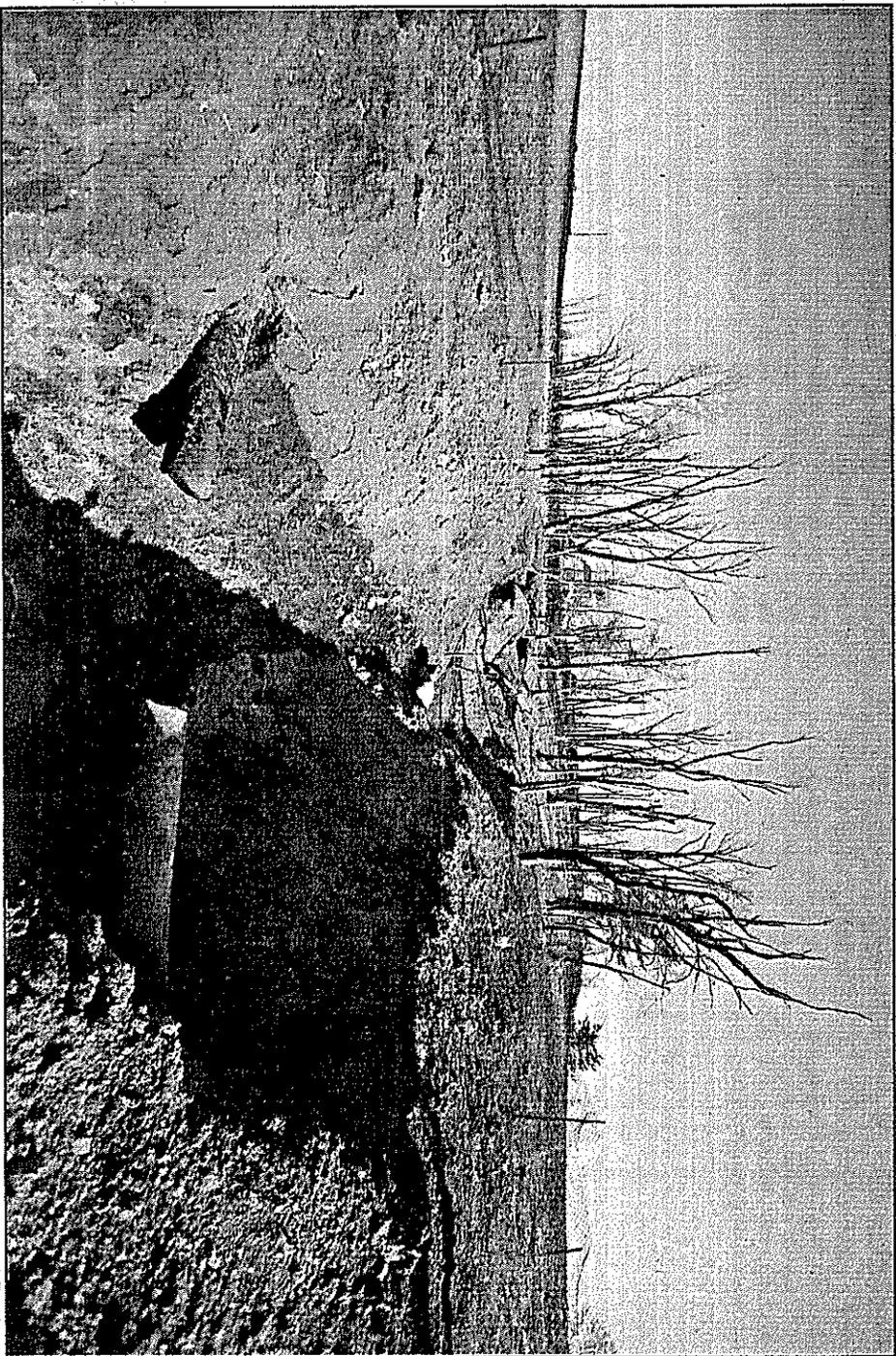
Also, while several area homeowners have spent a lot of time and



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Justin L. Fowler/The State Journal-Register

A large hole and fire-damaged trees are left after a 4-foot section of steel underground natural-gas pipeline ruptured and exploded on a farm near Pawnee early Sunday morning.

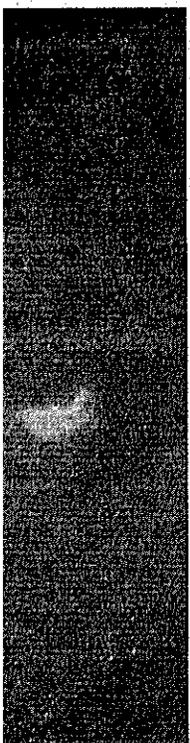
Pipeline explodes

Pawnee farmer worried about injuries to livestock

By AMANDA BEAVY

STAFF WRITER

PAWNEE — Jim Lederbrand's long day showed no sign of ending late Sunday afternoon as he stood with binoculars in hand on his family's scorched farmland just to the



Flames

Enos Park ready for renovation

By JOHN REYNOLDS

STAFF WRITER

As it stands now, Enos Park isn't the best-looking green space in the Springfield Park District.

The 3 1/2 acre neighborhood park, located near Seventh and Enterprise streets on the city's north end, has several trees, picnic tables and benches, but there aren't a lot of decorations or amenities to set it apart.

Also, while several area homeowners have spent a lot of time and money refurbishing their homes, there are more than a few dilapidated houses in the area, and the neighborhood has a problem with crime.

Despite the negatives, neighborhood residents and officials at the Springfield Park District have big plans for Enos Park. They want to renovate the park and add new trails, lighting, decorative columns on the four sides and also make changes to the existing pavilion. When work is done, they hope the 102-year-old park will resemble something that might have been in Springfield in the early 1900s.

Springfield attorney Justin Reichert, a past-president of the Enos Park Neighborhood Association, said his group started talking about the park renovations a few years ago as a way to show people that the neighborhood around the park is improving.

"This would suggest to people committing crimes in the neighborhood that the neighborhood is changing. Those people need to be aware of that," Reichert said. "This project would also suggest to the people who have respect for the neighborhood that there are people who are doing good things."

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BY AMANDA REAVY

STAFF WRITER

PAWNEE — Jim Lederbrand's long day showed no sign of ending late Sunday afternoon as he stood with binoculars in hand on his family's scorched farmland just to the north of Pawnee.

Portions of charred trees continued to smolder, and the surrounding grass was blackened and reduced to ash in some areas nearly 12 hours after a natural gas pipeline exploded, launching a dramatic fireball through the area that raged for hours and extended hundreds of feet into the air.

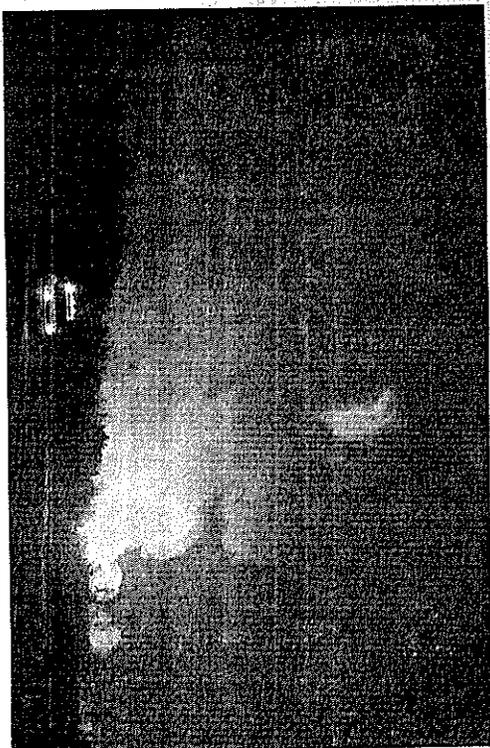
No one was injured, but the blast's extreme force shook Lederbrand's nearby home and badly frightened his cows, 60 of which got loose while trying to escape the intense heat.

Once flames subsided, Lederbrand and nearly 40 family members, friends and employees scattered across the area searching for the cattle and surveying the damage.

"It's pretty extensive damage — tree loss and some buildings, feed bunks, stuff like that... It's nothing that can't be replaced, but just the idea of losing it all like that and you know the big thing is, we don't know what kind of shape the cows are in," he said.

Lederbrand's farmland lies just south of Zion Road, directly adjacent to where the Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. pipeline broke and exploded about 4:30 a.m. in a field just north of where Zion dead-ends.

"We received a call from the Pawnee Police Department about 4:55 a.m. and then we sent our employees to the site and they closed the valves on both sides of the pipeline's rupture



Flames shoot into the sky from early Sunday's pipeline explosion.

Photo courtesy Steve Hinrichs



SEE IT YOURSELF

Links to video of the fireball are at www.sh-1.com.



ident who lived about a third of a mile from the site.

Barnett said Sunday evening that investigators were still trying to determine what caused the rupture on the steel pipeline, which is 22 inches in diameter and sits near a creek bed.

area, which shuts off the flow of gas. The fire then burned itself out about 6:10 a.m.," according to Panhandle spokesman John Barnett.

He said emergency officials evacuated one res-

"We have people who are in the area and we did also send engineers from Houston, Texas, which is where (Panhandle) is based," Barnett said.

At about 4:30 p.m., the explosion site remained untouched by investigators or repair crews as a Panhandle maintenance worker stood by as water was pumped away from the pipe.

The pipe, which sat about 3 feet under ground, was exposed after the blast and a 4-foot section of the pipe appeared to be blown out and laid twisted several yards away.

Debbie Mueller, who lives north of the blast site on Delay Road, described the view

See **PIPELINE** on page 3

NEWS IN THE MAKING: A LOOK AT WHAT'S COMING THIS WEEK

Today

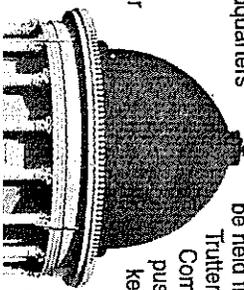
New members of Springfield Metropolitan Exposition & Auditorium Authority to be sworn in, noon, Prairie Capital Convention Center.

Wednesday

Pled Piper Downtown Architectural Walking Tour. Free tour begins at 5:30 p.m. in front of the Lincoln-Herridon Law Office and will include stops at several historic and architectural landmarks.

Saturday

"Bringing Over There' Back Here," a World War I symposium and exhibit, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Trutter Center on Lincoln Land Community College's main campus, 5250 Shepherd Road. The keynote speaker will be James Barkley, education coordinator for the National World War One Museum of Kansas City, Mo. Admission is free, and reservations are available



Best bet

Springfield bands Park and Midnight Fall will perform their final shows on the same stage on the same night. It all begins at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, 626 E. St. Joseph St. Farewell to Twilight and Gamenight also will be on the bill. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Advance tickets are available at 20ne7 Skate Shop, 3415 Chatham Road; Bread Streeters Gourmet Subs, 202 F. Monroe St.; the Rock Shop, 1815

See **PARK** on page 2

committing crimes in the neighborhood that the neighborhood is changing. Those people need to be aware of that," Reichert said. "This project would also suggest to the people who have respect for the neighborhood that there are people who are doing good things."

Work on the first phase of the Enos Park project could begin as early as June, and be finished by September, said Mike Stratton, executive director of the Springfield Park District.

The first phase of the project involves a network of concrete walking paths that meander through the rectangular, 3 1/2 acre park, and converge with a concrete pad at the center of Enos. Eventually, during a later phase of renovation, some sort of centerpiece would be put on the pad.

Possibilities for a centerpiece include a gazebo or a fountain, but so far nothing has been decided.

The paved paths will be about four to five feet wide, and will be wheelchair-accessible. The lighting along the paths would resemble early 1900 fixtures.

Also during the first phase, a concrete column will be built at each corner of the park. These columns will have the name "Enos Park" inscribed in them.

er warns Tehran of violence spillover

AHRA

"But what do we need to do? It's quite obvious. Stop the flow of arms to foreign fighters. Stop the flow of foreign fighters across the borders," Rice told ABC's "This Week."

Hours earlier, al-Maliki's office announced that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had telephoned to say a delegation from his country would attend the conference.

Iraqi leaders had been pressing for the Iranians to attend the Egyptian meeting for weeks, but Iran refused to commit, in part because of fears that it would come under pressure from the U.S. and others about its nuclear program.

In addition, the Iranians have been lobbying for the release of five Iranians held by the U.S. in Iraq since January. The U.S. has accused the five of links to an Iranian Revolutionary Guard unit that arms and trains Shiite extremists in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The decision to attend "came after consultations between Iraqi officials and the Iranian president," Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said in an interview with Iranian state television.

Senior Iranian envoy Ali Larijani flew to Baghdad on Sunday for talks with al-Maliki and other senior Iraqi officials — the high-

east-rank Iranian official to visit Iraq since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003.

During their meeting, Larijani told al-Maliki that all countries that want stability in the region "have no choice but to support Iraq's elected government."

Al-Maliki replied that terrorist attacks in Iraq would hurt all countries in the region, "including those that are supposed to support the Iraqi government," according to a statement by the prime minister's office. Although al-Maliki did not refer to specific terror groups, it appeared that his remarks were not limited to Sunni insurgents but included Shiite extremists, as well.

On Sunday, U.S. troops in Baghdad clashed with Shiite gunmen in north Baghdad, police said. There was no report on casualties but police said several gunmen were arrested.

In Tehran, the head of the Iranian parliamentary committee on national security and foreign policy, Alaeeddin Borrojerdi, also said Iran's failure to participate in Sharm el-Sheikh would lay the Islamic republic open to criticism from the United States.

"Iran should attend the conference, actively and powerfully," Borrojerdi was quoted as saying by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

Is warning on revised Iraq bill

without consequences. Iraq has struggled to keep its own promises for distributing oil wealth, refining its constitution and expanding democratic participation.

"The benchmarks — the Iraqis agreed to it, the president agreed it," said Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., who heads a House subcommittee that controls defense spending. "We're saying to them, 'Well, let's put some teeth into the benchmarks.'"

Even if they agree to scrap a troop withdrawal timetable, Democratic lawmakers say they want to

resident Bush will not sign that penalizes Iraq's government progress, Secretary of State Sunday, a fresh warning to him.

to a bill this week that would

searunes — the number that actually result in finding a crime," Shelton said. "There's a great deal of racial

likely as whites (2.1 percent) to be arrested. Hispanic drivers were arrested 3.1 percent of the time.

PIPELINE

From page 1

outside her window as an "inferno" and recalled a continuous hissing noise as the gas fueled the blaze.

"You can't imagine what it looked like unless you saw it, heard it or felt it," she said. "Thank God it wasn't in a neighborhood, can you imagine?"

Sangamon County Sheriff Neil Williamson agreed.

"The closest house is about a third of a mile away, and the siding on the house was burned and melted. It was just unbelievable. I think we really dodged a bullet. As big as this was, it could have been much, much worse with the loss of life," he said.

Lederbrand — who lives on Cotton Hill Road, only a half-mile south of where the blast occurred — recalled how the explosion awoke him from a sound sleep.

"It shook the house, and first, for a split-second, I thought it was an airplane crashing, and it had this loud, real loud, like a freight train going through, just constant (sound)," he recalled. "All I could see was a glowing orange out of the blinds of the windows ... as soon as I looked down there, there were shooting flames, 500 to 600 feet in the air."

When he opened his garage door, Lederbrand said he could feel the heat hitting his face.

After calling 911, he realized he had 60 cows penned in a nearby barn so he, his father and uncle went to rescue them.

"The barn was so hot, you

couldn't even touch the gates. I mean, it would just burn you to touch anything," he said. "Most of the cows had run through the fence, and they're scattered all over the county now, but we still had some locked up in the barn, and we were able to get them out and saved all of them. We just wanted to get them turned loose, we didn't care where they went."

With about 20 people on horseback, Lederbrand's family managed to round up about 22 of the missing cows.

"We haven't lost any yet, but we don't know how bad some of them were burned. A lot of them got burns on them, and we don't know how much smoke inhalation they've gotten in their lungs," he said.

Lederbrand said it was between 35 and 45 minutes before firefighters were able to get to the explosion site.

"But there was nothing they could do when it was burning like that. They had to wait for the gas to burn out before they could even get close to it, and basically all

they were doing then was putting out grass fires around it," he said.

Lederbrand said there are several pipelines in the area but they never worried him before.

"They won't let you build within so many feet of it, but there's never been any reason for anybody to be worried about it," he said.

Barnett said investigators will have to evaluate the ruptured pipe as it stood following the blast before any repairs can be made. He added that such explosions are extremely rare.

"We do everything that we possibly can to ensure the safety of the pipeline as well as the safety of any residents living near the pipeline," he said. "They are monitored 24 hours a day from our control center here in Houston, and, in addition, we do have people who inspect the pipelines and they are constantly maintained."

Amarda Reavy can be reached at 788-1525 or amarda.reavy@sj-r.com.

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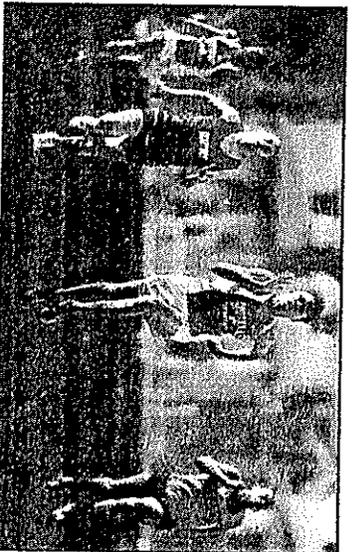
50 COLORS MINNY & CHENILLE

Andins

Spartans again

Southeast wins the Girls City Track Meet for the 24th time in 25 years.

PAGE 25



The toll rises

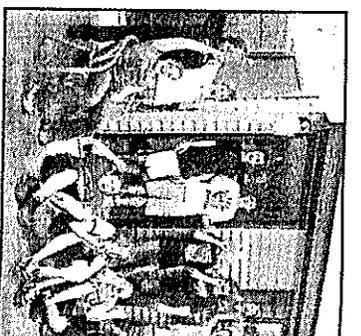
At least 104 Americans were killed in Iraq in April. At least 102 Iraqis were killed on Monday.

PAGE 3

Making his mark

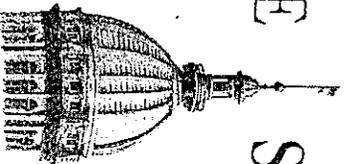
A city man is jailed for allegedly tattooing a 15-year-old without permission from the boy's parents.

PAGE 7



THE STATE

Journal



Register

THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN ILLINOIS™

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Pipeline blasts' cause still un-

*Probe could
take weeks;
farmers say
land damaged*

By JAVETTE BOLINSKI
and AMANDA REAVY

STAFF WRITERS

PAWNEE — The two farmers who lease property damaged by a massive natural gas explosion early Sunday say they're still not sure what all the repercussions will be.

Officials with Parhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. are trying to determine what caused a 22-inch natural gas transmission line to rup-



SEE MORE

A gallery of photos is at www.sj-r.com

ture Sunday morning near Pawnee, sending flames hundreds of feet into the air, scorching trees and earth and melting the siding on a nearby home. Company spokesman John Barnett said Monday an investigative team from Houston is at the site, which is in a field just

north of where Zion Road dead-ends. "They will need to send parts of the pipe to be tested elsewhere, so it could be several weeks or more before a cause is determined," Barnett said. The pipeline is monitored from Texas on a round-the-clock basis, but officials had no warning of the impending blast. "An incident like this is very, very unusual. It does not happen often. So we monitor the pipelines constantly, 24 hours a day,

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GOOD SPORTS



The toll rises

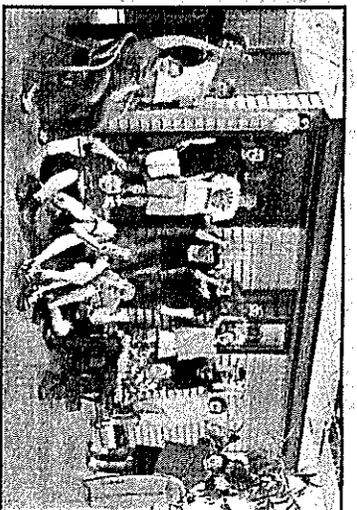
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PAGE 3

Making his mark

A city man is jailed for allegedly tattooing a 15-year-old without permission from the boy's parents.

PAGE 7



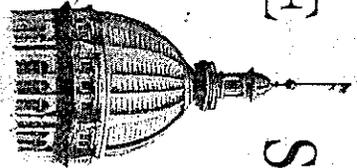
Home work

Seventh-graders build a house lacking little except floor space.

PAGE 13

THE STATE

Journal Register



THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN ILLINOIS™

TUESDAY

MAY 1, 2007

Line blast's cause still unknown

By JAVETTE BOLINSKI and AMANDA REAVY

STAFF WRITERS

PAWNEE — The two farmers who lease property damaged by a massive natural gas explosion early Sunday say they're still not sure what all the repercussions will be.

Officials with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Co. are trying to determine what caused a 22-inch natural gas transmission line to rup-



SEE MORE

A gallery of photos is at www.s-i.com

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seven days a week, from a gas control center that is here in Houston," Barnett said. "We have planes that fly over the line to make sure that no one is on the right of way of the pipeline without authorization and there is not any construction activity, digging or anything like that." The pipe, which is buried about three feet

See **BLAST** on page 2

GOOD SPORTS



Cohen on sidelines

of the British army said Monday that he had prince Harry, the third in line to the throne, will in Iraq.

ly had reconsidered their decision to allow the fear he would become a target of insurgents and other soldiers. Harry's regiment, the Blues in a six-month tour of duty in Iraq within weeks, newspapers reported threats by Iraqi in-

the prince. Military chiefs acknowledge Harry t get and his presence could lead to a surge in at- ten. Sir Richard Dannatt said the decision would t he hoped his statement would end media spec- iment.

The Associated Press

Yin history

lay 1, the committed suicide, Admiral Karl Doenitz effectively became sole leader of the Third Reich with the suicide of Hitler's propaganda minister, Josef Goebbels.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnais- ance plane near Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas. (They divorced in 1973.)

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Former astronaut Scott Carpenter is 82. Country singer Sonny James is 78. Singer Judy Collins is 68. Actor Stephen Macht is 65. Actor Dann Florek is 56. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Cauthen is 47. Country singer Tim McGraw is 40. Rock musician D'Arcy is 39. Movie director Wes Anderson is 38.

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BLAST

From page 1

underground, ruptured about 4:30 a.m. Sunday, sending a fireball into the air that could be seen as far away as Carlinville.

Barnett said the Pawnee Police Department notified the company about 4:55 a.m., and employees rushed there to close off valves on both sides of the ruptured area. The fire burned itself out about 6:10 a.m., he said.

No one was injured in the blast. One resident who lived about a third of a mile away was evacuated.

The explosion occurred on property owned by the city of Springfield for the Hunter Lake project, a long-delayed plan to supplement Lake Springfield, the city's water source, with a second reservoir, according to Don Alvies.

Alvies farms the land through the Conservation Reserve Program, which pays farmers to take marginal farmland or land that erodes easily out of production and plant grass or other cover.

Because the property where the pipeline ruptured is considered highly erodible, the site was planted with a mixture of clovers, alfalfa and grasses, he said.

Alvies said the fireball damaged about half of the roughly nine acres east of the site and about 4 acres of a similar-sized field to the west. The intense heat disintegrated a woven wire fence and steel posts near the pipeline and melted a portion of nearby roadway that later resolidified.

The land immediately surrounding the blast site is "like volcanic ash," he said. "To try to plant something in that would be like trying to plant on this carpet or concrete," he said Monday.

Alvies said a soil fertility expert is going to examine the damaged land today. He speculated options to restore growth might involve scraping the land or adding topsoil.

Alvies said there are two more pipelines to the south of the one that ruptured.

"People ask me if I'm worried, and I say, 'No, I'm not.' Panhandle has always been great to work with. They're very responsible," he said. "I wish a lot of other firms were as good to work with as they have been."

The pipeline was built in 1940. It extends from the southwestern part of Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle, where there are natural gas production fields, through Illinois and Indiana into Michigan. It provides natural gas to large customers along the way, such as gas companies, manufacturing plants and electric generation plants.

Jim Lederbrand's family farms the fields south of Zion Road, part of which is owned by the city and the rest by his family. Lederbrand said 90 percent of the damaged land he farms belongs to the city.

Restoration efforts are on hold while Panhandle continues its investigation, he said.

Lederbrand had 60 cows penned up in a barn just south of the explosion site, but they all scattered after he and family members tried to free them.

Two were killed, he said Monday, and about 21 remained loose. "Some of them are going to be fine, but other ones, some of them are bleeding through the nose which may be a repercusson from the blast. We don't know. A lot of them that we did catch have not eaten. ... Only time will tell, this could go on for weeks."

Lederbrand said his family is supposed to meet with Panhandle

representatives today.

His family also lost a pickup while searching for the cows Sunday afternoon. His uncle was driving 2005 Ford F150 on Alvies Road, but flames broke out on the back of the motor after the truck was put into 4-wheel drive.

The truck was demolished by the fire.

"We've had a heck of a two days, I'll tell you that," Lederbrand said.

Joyette Bolinski can be reached at 788-1530 or joyette.bolinski@sjr.com. Amanda Reavy can be reached at 788-1525 or amanda.reavy@sjr.com.

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No One Injured In Gas Pipeline Explosion Near Springfield, Ill.

created: 4/29/2007 2:41:47 PM
updated: 4/29/2007 9:24:54 PM

PAWNEE, Ill. (AP) -- Authorities say a 24-inch natural gas pipeline ruptured and caught fire early Sunday morning in a rural area near Pawnee -- just southeast of Springfield.

Assistant Pawnee Fire Chief John Archer says the Panhandle Eastern pipeline ruptured about 4:40 a.m. near a creek bed in a farm field. Although there were no injuries, Archer said emergency workers evacuated between 50 and 75 people from their nearby homes as a precaution.

The initial explosion sent an orange fireball about 200 feet into the sky and was visible for several miles.

Archer says only a bit of residual gas in the pipeline was still burning at 7 a.m., and his crews expect to have the fire extinguished once the pipeline is completely shut down.

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AP



**Publications**

Pipeline Accident Report
**Natural Gas Pipeline Rupture and Fire
Near Carlsbad, New Mexico
August 19, 2000**

NTSB Number PAR-03/01

NTIS Number PB2003-916501

PDF Document (900K)

Executive Summary: At 5:26 a.m., mountain daylight time, on Saturday, August 19, 2000, a 30-inch-diameter natural gas transmission pipeline operated by El Paso Natural Gas Company ruptured adjacent to the Pecos River near Carlsbad, New Mexico. The released gas ignited and burned for 55 minutes. Twelve persons who were camping under a concrete-decked steel bridge that supported the pipeline across the river were killed and their three vehicles destroyed. Two nearby steel suspension bridges for gas pipelines crossing the river were extensively damaged. According to El Paso Natural Gas Company, property and other damages or losses totaled \$998,296.

The National Transportation Safety Board determines that the probable cause of the August 19, 2000, natural gas pipeline rupture and subsequent fire near Carlsbad, New Mexico, was a significant reduction in pipe wall thickness due to severe internal corrosion. The severe corrosion had occurred because El Paso Natural Gas Company's corrosion control program failed to prevent, detect, or control internal corrosion within the company's pipeline. Contributing to the accident were ineffective Federal preaccident inspections of El Paso Natural Gas Company that did not identify deficiencies in the company's internal corrosion control program.

The major safety issues identified in this investigation are as follows:

- The design and construction of the pipeline,
- The adequacy of El Paso Natural Gas Company's internal corrosion control program,
- The adequacy of Federal safety regulations for natural gas pipelines, and
- The adequacy of Federal oversight of the pipeline operator.

As a result of its investigation of this accident, the National Transportation Safety Board makes safety recommendations to the Research and Special Programs Administration and NACE International.

[NTSB Home](#) | [Publications](#)



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Pipeline Accident Brief

Accident No.:	DCA-97-FP-005
Type of System:	Transmission pipeline
Type of Accident:	Rupture and fire
Location:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Date and Time:	July 21, 1997; 2:33 p.m. CST
Owner/Operator:	Citizens Gas & Coke Utility
Property Damage and Losses:	In excess of \$2 million
Fatalities:	1
Injuries:	1
Evacuated:	75
Material Released:	Natural gas
Pressure:	310 psig
Type of Failure:	Excavation damage
Component Affected:	20-inch-diameter buried steel transmission pipeline

The Accident

About 2:33 p.m. on July 21, 1997, a 20-inch-diameter steel natural gas transmission pipeline owned and operated by Citizens Gas & Coke Utility Company (Citizens Gas) ruptured and released natural gas near an intersection adjoining the Charter Pointe subdivision in Indianapolis, Indiana. The gas ignited and burned, killing one resident and injuring another. About 75 residents required temporary shelter. Six homes were destroyed, and about 65 others sustained damage significant enough to be documented by the local investigation team.

The pipeline had not been under full internal pressure since March 31, 1997, when the pressure was reduced to approximately 30 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) in anticipation of road construction work in the area.¹ On May 19, 1997, a directional drilling operation had been performed to install an 8-inch-diameter steel natural gas distribution main parallel to the transmission pipeline. About 1 hour and 40 minutes before the rupture, Citizens Gas had begun to return the 20-inch transmission pipeline to full service.

¹ The road construction work required that Citizens Gas relocate an adjacent section of its 20-inch transmission pipeline. In view of the reduced seasonal demand for natural gas, the company decided to reduce the pressure on the pipeline and discontinue using it to transport gas during the period of construction.

Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion and Fire

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia
(Redirected from Durham Woods Fire)

The **Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion and Fire** occurred in Edison, New Jersey on March 23, 1994 where a 36" diameter natural gas pipeline broke and exploded into flames next to the Durham Woods apartment complex along New Durham Road at its junction with Rt. 287. The resulting fire destroyed or severely damaged 14 of the apartment buildings. One death occurred from a heart attack suffered by Sandra Snyder, who was unable to summon emergency workers "amid the chaos." Because the fire occurred so close to the Durham Woods complex, residents in the area also refer to it as the **Durham Woods fire**.

Contents

- 1 NTSB
- 2 "One call" system
- 3 Tenants' lawsuits
- 4 References
- 5 External links

NTSB

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation found a gouge in the pipe, probably caused by excavation equipment years earlier; in combination with brittle pipe material and excessive operating pressures likely led to the rupture. NTSB also found fault with the lack of automatic or remote-controlled shutoff valves: the manual valves were difficult to reach and close, preventing operators from promptly cutting off gas that fueled the fire. Also, NTSB found that Texas Eastern failed to adequately monitor excavation activity on its right of way.

"One call" system

In response to the fire, New Jersey passed regulations requiring excavators to call a telephone hotline prior to digging so that pipeline companies can mark the precise locations of their pipes on the dig site. By 1996, the "one call" concept became an accepted national practice, although New Jersey lawmakers continued to call for tougher federal laws on pipeline safety.

Tenants' lawsuits

Following the fire, over 2,000 tenants of Durham Woods and nearby residences sued Texas Eastern and 29 other defendants, including the township, Durham Woods' landlord, and the excavator who cracked the pipeline. By 1997, over half of these suits had been settled, most for "\$25,000 or less," but with \$585,000 going to Sandra Snyder's estate. By 2000, Texas Eastern had paid "nearly \$65 million" in settlements.

References

- New York Times; March 24, 1994, "A huge natural gas explosion rocked Edison, New Jersey, late last night, lighting a fierce orange blaze that destroyed several nearby apartment buildings and turned night into day for miles around. At least 10 people were reported injured. The source of the inferno was a natural gas pipeline owned by ..."
- New York Times; March 27, 1994, "Federal investigators found evidence today that a rupture in a gas pipeline that touched off a powerful explosion at an apartment complex here may have been caused by repeated damage to the pipeline from construction equipment. After searching a jagged crater carved by the blast near Durham Woods apartments, ..."
- New York Times; March 30, 1994, "The lawyer for an asphalt plant situated next to a natural gas pipeline that ruptured and exploded here last Wednesday said today that the plant's current operators had not done any digging on the property in the 10 years they owned it. The lawyer, Vincent Gentile, said the asphalt ..."
- "Gas Explosion Settlements" (<http://ny.yahoo.com/external/rnn/storyid/19970929010.html>), WRNN-TV, Sept. 29, 1997
- Home News Tribune; June 17, 2000, "Houston-based Texas Eastern Transmission Corp. has paid nearly \$65 million to settle residents' lawsuits."
- "A decade later, legacy of Edison blast persists" (http://ems.gmnews.com/News/2004/0331/Front_Page/013.html), Edison-Metuchen Sentinel, Mar. 31, 2004

External links

- NTSB Investigation (<http://www.nts.gov/publictn/1995/PAR9501r.pdf>)
- Edison, N.J. Pipeline Explosion & MCI (<http://www.rxn.com/~uffda/archive/science/edison.txt>), an hour-by-hour narrative by EMT Daniel J. Januseski
- Edison Natural Gas Explosion Video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyMbaZ9FVjA>)
- Durham Woods Apartments (<http://www.apartmentlinks.net/apartments/NJ-Edison-Durham-Woods-Apartments-68996.html>)
- Texas Eastern Transmission (http://www.duke-energy.com/companies/degt/us/facilities/texas_eastern/) (subsidiary of Duke Energy)
- One Call Systems (<http://www.pipeline101.com/PipelinesYou/onecall.html>) information from API/AOPL

Retrieved from

"http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Eastern_Transmission_Corporation_Natural_Gas_Pipeline_Explosi

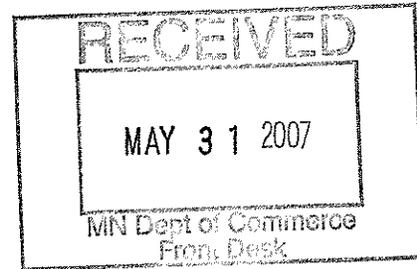
Categories: Fires in the United States | Gas explosions

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May 29, 2007

Minnesota Department of Commerce

ATTN: Jeffrey Haase



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

I own parcels 08-010-3200 and 08-010-2304 in Blackberry Township where the proposed pipeline will begin and run North under Hwy 2. At the Taconite meeting I received a verbal agreement from Clarence Kadrmas concerning routing the pipeline along the East boundary of my property North to Hwy 2 instead of diagonally across. This is only a verbal agreement-nothing in writing to date-so exact route is still a "crap shoot". Since the Taconite meeting I have been offered \$66,000 for parts of above mentioned parcels and when I informed potential buyer of possible pipeline intrusion-negotiations halted. So for the present time I am in Limbo, compliments of the Nashwauk Pipeline. Itasca County on the other hand is not in Limbo it is full speed for the Assessor-taxes have been raised 109% on parcel 08-010-3200 from 2005-2007. If the pipeline goes through they will not lower the Taxable Market Value on the parcel-they will only take the 70' strip and classify it as unproductive and still value at \$1,000/acre.

Parcel 08-010-2304 has excellent commercial development potential with 1300' of frontage on Hwy 2 but, once again the threat of the pipeline has halted any plans to develop or actively advertise this property. Menards has expressed some interest in the property but I cannot pursue this further because if they learn of the pipeline negotiations will halt faster than they did with the residential customer.

The route for this pipeline has to be changed to one of the alternate routes or better yet to the Swan River route-North along Hwy 65 because of the detrimental effects on possible commercial and residential expansion in Blackberry and Trout Lake Townships and points North. I am confident that my scenario is just a drop in the bucket of adverse effects that will be experienced by people and their families along the Blackberry to Nashwauk route, so please do your best to influence the PUC to reject this route.

At the recent Nashwauk meeting, the statement by the SEH official who said that the partial exemption is rarely denied, I found quite disturbing because I felt the decision had already been made in St. Paul. I sincerely hope this is not true and would like to see

that the system still works "for the people and by the people". SEH's flippant attitude toward changing the route was summarized in Clarences statement "If the route is changed there are just different faces to deal with, the problems remain the same". We are people with plans and homes and families to raise on the property we worked hard to pay for and have to continue to fight to retain due to ever increasing taxes and insurance-WE ARE NOT JUST FACES!

Due to the delay in funding for the project we have time to consider alternate routes so please convince Suzanne to also recommend that the PUC not rush into approval of the Partial Exemption.

Sincerely,

Michael Karna

Michael Karna
21205 Bluebird Drive
Grand Rapids, MN. 55744
Phone 218-326-6061



Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission



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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashwauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through June 8, 2007.

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**

Charlotte Neigh

25886 Spruce Drive • Bovey, Minnesota 55709
Tel/Fax (218) 245-1844 • E-mail neighcan@northlc.com

COMMENTS Re: Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481 • Submitted at public meeting in Nashwauk 5/24/07

THE MPUC SHOULD DENY THE PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION APPLICATION

A. This Project Will Have a Significant Effect on Humans and the Environment

1. A new 23-mile ROW will interfere with the property rights, peace of mind, and land-use plans of more than 100 property owners, and diminish the value of their property.
2. Trout Lake Township is one of the most populous in Itasca County and already has two natural gas pipelines running through it.
3. Blackberry Township already has other pipelines and more are in the planning stage.

B. Route Not Based on the Criteria in Minn. Rule 4415.0040 & No Other Route Considered

This route was adopted by the Nashwauk PUC because it was the route selected by the same engineering firm, SEH, for the natural gas pipeline proposed for the Mesaba Energy Project, which expected to need gas service near the city of Taconite. (Attached Exhibits 1 & 2 - pages 34 and 90 from 6/16/06 Joint Application by Excelsior Energy to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, Docket No. E6472/GS-06-668). The Nashwauk PUC did not consider possible routes that had been identified earlier, nor did it consider other possible routes starting at Hwy 2 east of Blackberry and not going to Taconite.

Although the 3/21/07 comments by DOC EFP staff describe the project as being for "other potential industrial customers *near* the city of Nashwauk", it should be noted that the **Nashwauk PUC's legal authority to construct, own and operate a gas distribution line is limited to customers located in an area recently acquired by the city.** (Exh. 3 - Minn Session Laws 1997-Chapter 21). The Nashwauk PUC is not authorized to provide gas service to customers outside this area and so there is no need for the route to pass near the city of Taconite.

Even if the Nashwauk PUC were authorized to provide such service, it is increasingly unlikely that the MEP will be built, given the recommendation of the ALJs that its proposed power purchase agreement with Xcel Energy not be approved (Exh. 4 - 4/12/07 Recommendation of ALJs). (This also means that the 4.2 miles of the route described as following a "proposed" 230 kV HVTL would actually not be sharing another ROW.)

Under these circumstances there is no need for the gas pipeline to pass near the city of Taconite. An entirely different route, farther east, could economically connect Nashwauk with the GLG pipeline along Highway 2.

C. A Citizen Advisory Committee Should Be Established

Given the applicant's failure to reasonably consider other routes, a citizen advisory committee should be appointed, in accordance with Minn Rules 4415.0055 & .0060, to aid and advise the PUC in evaluating routes.

D. Denial of the Exemption Need Not Delay MSI Progress

A representative of MSI previously stated at an Itasca County meeting that it could initially function using gas from the NNG pipeline that runs near the building site. This would allow the project to proceed on schedule while due process is done to assure that the permitted route conforms to state laws and rules.

Respectfully Submitted,



SECTION 1**MPUC JOINT APPLICATION**

this Application supports the conclusion that both the preferred and alternate sites can support the development of two 606 MW (net) generating units. There are currently no plans to expand the electrical generating capacity of either of the proposed Sites beyond the 1,212 MW (net) of generating capacity referenced in this Joint Application.

1.9.2 HVTL Routes**1.9.2.1 HVTL Routes Impact Fewest Resources**

This Joint Application demonstrates that to the extent practicable, the proposed HVTL routes impact the fewest resources by proposing direct HVTL routes that traverse remote areas with relatively few landowners and by using existing HTVL rights-of-way ("ROW") along the direct route to the extent practicable.

1.9.2.2 Plans for Expansion of the HVTL System Are Established and Meet Reliability Criteria**1.9.2.2.1 West Range Site**

The preferred and alternate HVTL routes and the structures that will be used for the generator outlet facilities have been designed to support the full output of Mesaba One and Mesaba Two. The structures utilized are 345kV double circuit single steel structures and are not designed for further expansion.

1.9.2.2.2 East Range Site

In the case of the East Range Site, two 345kV HVTLs will be initially placed in separate routes to satisfy the n-1 (single failure criterium) for Mesaba One. The two 345kV HVTLs will support the full output of Mesaba One and Mesaba Two.

1.9.3 Natural Gas Pipeline

Minnesota Rules 4415.0130 requires the applicant to describe how the natural gas pipeline may be expanded if future expansion is required. In general, the gas pipeline route and ROW that is the subject of this Application is intended to serve only Mesaba One and Mesaba Two. However, the pipeline installed will be oversized to allow sufficient capability for use by others should such actions be mutually agreeable to the parties and not violate permit conditions. As noted, it is possible that a local gas utility or municipal entity may own and construct this natural gas pipeline, which would jointly serve the IGCC Power Station and the proposed Minnesota Steel facility located nearby.

The trench excavated for the pipeline will be sufficiently sized to allow for placement of one pipe to supply Mesaba One and Mesaba Two with natural gas. Considerations regarding the pipeline trench and construction methods are provided in greater detail in Section 5.



Minnesota Session Laws 1997 - Chapter 21

Key: (1)~~Language to be deleted~~ (2)New language
Legislative history and Authors

CHAPTER 21- S.F.No. 504

An act relating to local government; permitting the city of Nashwauk to own and operate a gas utility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [NASHWAUK GAS UTILITY.]

The city of Nashwauk may construct and own one gas distribution line connecting an area recently acquired by the city, and not currently served by a natural gas utility, with a natural gas pipeline serving the region. Solely for the purpose of operating this gas line, and distributing gas to customers located in the recently acquired area, the city may establish a municipal gas utility without the election required under Minnesota Statutes, section 412.321, subdivision 2.

Sec. 2. [EFFECTIVE DATE.]

Section 1 is effective the day after compliance by the city of Nashwauk with Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021, subdivision 3.

Presented to the governor April 4, 1997

Signed by the governor April 8, 1997, 10:20 a.m.

Please direct all comments concerning issues or legislation to your House Member or State Senator.

For Legislative Staff or for directions to the Capitol, visit the Contact Us page.

General questions or comments.

12. It would be contrary to the public interest for the Project to supply at least two percent of Xcel Energy's retail load starting in 2012.

Based on the foregoing Conclusions, and for reasons set forth in the following Memorandum, the Administrative Law Judges make the following:

RECOMMENDATION

IT IS HEREBY RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDED that the Public Utilities Commission order:

1. That Excelsior Energy's Petition asking the Commission to approve, amend, or modify the terms and conditions of the Final PPA under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1694 be **DENIED** and that the Final PPA be **DISAPPROVED**.

2. That if the Commission approves the Final PPA, that it first be amended through negotiations among Excelsior Energy, Xcel Energy, and the Department to address the deficiencies identified in this Report, then returned to the Commission for final approval.

3. That Excelsior Energy's Petition asking the Commission to determine under Minn. Stat. § 216B.1693 that the Project and its IGCC technology is, or is likely to be, a least-cost resource, thus obligating Xcel Energy to use the plant's generation for at least two percent of the energy supplied to its retail customers, be **DENIED**.

4. That Excelsior Energy's Petition asking the Commission to determine that, under the terms of Minn. Stat. § 216B.1693, at least 13 percent of the energy supplied to Xcel Energy's retail customers should come from the Units I and II of the Mesaba Energy Project by 2013 be considered in Phase 2 of this matter.

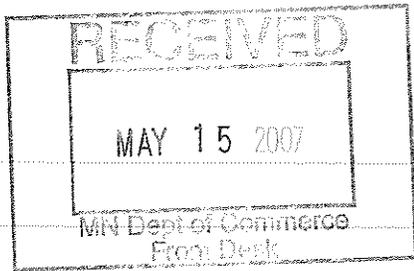
Dated: April 12, 2007

s/Steve M. Mihalchick

STEVE M. MIHALCHICK
Administrative Law Judge

s/Bruce H. Johnson

BRUCE H. JOHNSON
Administrative Law Judge



May 13, 07

MN. Dept of Commerce
St. Paul, MN. 55101-2198

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

Please do not have this
pipeline going on this route.

I have just 2 acres of land
and have lived here for over

50 years.



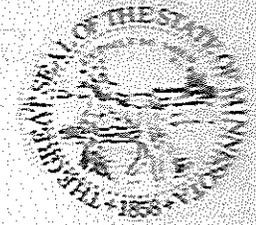
Thank you
Mrs. Howard Breniger
Mrs. Howard Breniger
2058 1/2 Happy Hollow Rd
Grand Rapids, MN.

55744



Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission



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

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Dear Mr. Haase,

I am writing you regarding docket # PL, E-280/GP-06-1481 and my concerns for the environment of my land.

I am a homeowner in the line of the proposed pipeline.

Please Place the Pipeline Elsewhere!!!

I have lost much sleep over this pipeline going on our property. I fear this pipeline very much and the 24" gas pipeline explosion incident on Sunday, April 29, 2007 in Pawnee, Ill. has deepened my worry.

We have strove to live in an undisturbed corner of the earth. We looked for and found that perfect place and we have developed this land for 28 years. We are very worried over this pipeline.

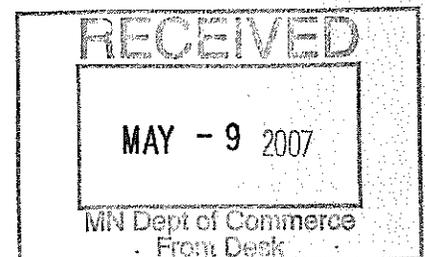
Please Do Not Place this Pipeline On Our Land!

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

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- 3) Fold, tape, and mail this form to the address on the reverse side of this sheet

Over →

Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007





888 444 4444

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Public Comment Sheet



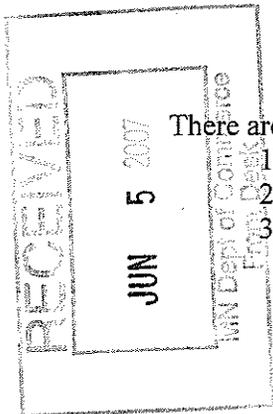
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The application by the Nashwauk Public utilities commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. They should have alternate routes. We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would affect less landowners.

*Rita Manthey
26147 Birch Dr.
Bovey, Mn. 55709*



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**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**



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Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

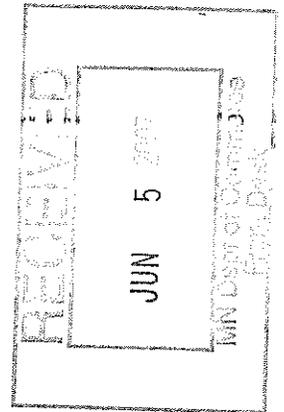
MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

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The application by the Nashwauk Public utilities commission for a partial exemption should NOT be granted they should have alternate routes.

We need a citizen advisory committee to look at alternate routes that would affect less land owners.

4495 Melina Ave NE. St. Michael MN.
55376



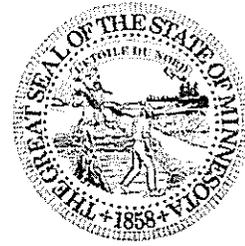
There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
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**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**



Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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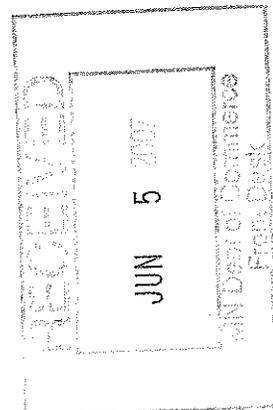
The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. They should have alternate routes. We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would affect less landowners.

*Dean Mantley
26147 Birch Lane
Nashwauk, MN 55855*

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MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

822 446 111

MPUC 516

Public Comment Sheet



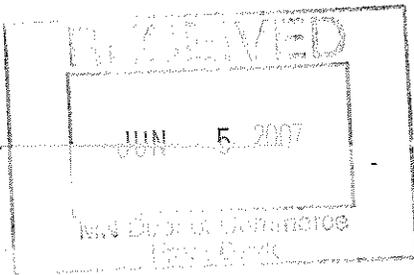
In the Matter of the Partial Exemption
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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities for a partial exemption for the proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project should not be granted. Alternative routes do exist that would affect fewer land owners.

We need a citizens advisory committee to address this situation.



Margaret J. Bowers
Margaret J. Bowers
27380 Birch Dr.
Bovey MN 55709

June 4, 2007

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June 8, 2007



MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet

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Application for the Proposed
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MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

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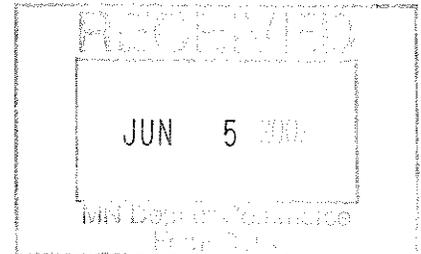
Sincerely,

Jeanne Haase

1601 E US Hwy 169
Grand Rapids, mn
55744

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June 8, 2007



Public Comment Sheet



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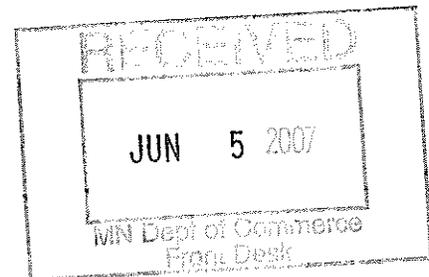
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We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would have less impact on the landowners.

*ERNEST O. BOWERS
Ernest O. Bowers
2738⁰ Birch Drive
Bovey, MN 55709
(218) 245-0244*



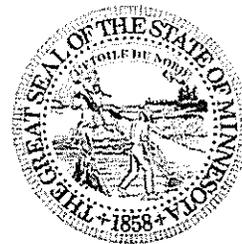
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Public Comment Sheet



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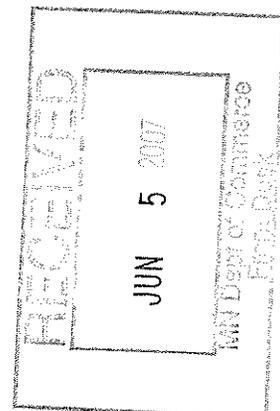
*Mr. & Mrs. Gary Kaye
22930 City Rd 90
Boosey, MN, 55409*

6-2-07

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MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet

**In the Matter of the Partial Exemption
Application for the Proposed
Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas
Pipeline Project submitted by the
Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission**



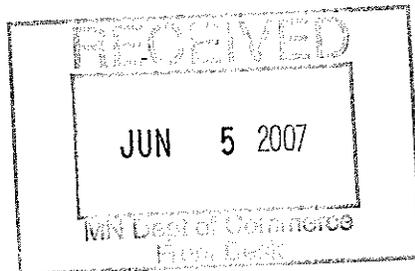
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The Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption application should in some way have a alternate Route & should be denied, until they get some sort of a citizens advisory committee together & look into alternate routes, which would be more suitable for everyone. I as a resident of Itasca County & live in the Trout Lake Township would greatly appreciate that much.

Thank you

Pamela Perry
26439 Birch Dr
Barey Mn 55709
218 245-1504



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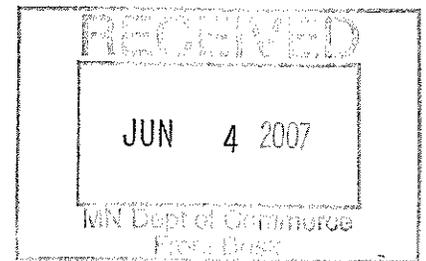
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As a land owner and resident of Itasca County, I strongly oppose both the Mesaba Project and MSI. Both of them will destroy our health, our environment, our lakes, and the economy of our county.

In reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E_280/GP-1481, count me against them.

You did not choose an advisory committee which makes me wonder how many other things have you hidden from us.

Bill Deason



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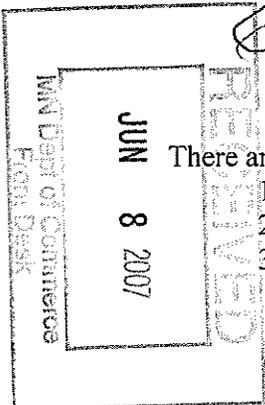
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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption should not be granted. They should have alternate routes.

We need a citizen advisory committee to look into alternate routes that would affect less landowners. The NPUC "must select routes that minimize human and environmental impact."

Evelyn M. White

4149-31st Ave S.
 2007



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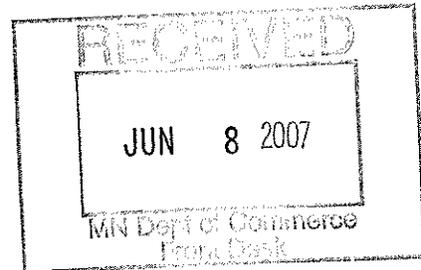
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After attending the meeting at Nashwauk and hearing a lawyer tell us that you had not followed the law in choosing the route for the gas pipeline, I strongly oppose anything further being done until an advisory committee is chosen and the other routes discussed in this committee. This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481.

Dorothy Stish



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**Comments must be received by
June 8, 2007**

Jeffrey Haase

From: Debi Tester [testerdebi_bob@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 12, 2007 10:29 AM
To: Jeffrey.Haase@state.mn.us
Subject: Docket No. PL E-280/GP-06-1481

RE: APPLICATION FOR A PIPELINE ROUTING PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM PIPELINE ROUTE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR NASHWAUK PUC, NASHWAUK-BLACKBERRY NATURAL GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

THE MPUC SHOULD DENY THE PERMIT AND PARTIAL EXEMPTION APPLICATION

If the exemption is granted, the route gets a permit & no other routes are considered.) Eminent Domain should not be used to take away personal land for a corporate entity. No exemptions should be given to corporations to streamline their application and approval when personal land is in jeopardy.

 This project will have a significant effect on humans and the environment.**Consider the following factors:**

- A new 23-mile right of way (ROW) will interfere with the property rights, peace of mind, and land-use plans of more than 100 property owners, and diminish the value of their property.
- Trout Lake Township is one of the most populous in the county and already has two natural gas pipelines running through it.
- Blackberry Township already has other pipelines and more are in the planning stage.

 The proposed route does not minimize the adverse impact inherent in such a pipeline.

- The proposed route was selected to include service for the Mesaba Energy Project (MEP), which likely will not be built (see ALJs' Report, MPUC Docket No. E-6472/M-05-1993) and so will not need access to this natural gas. Therefore there is no need for the pipeline to go to Taconite or to originate at Blackberry. The proposed route contains a 4.2 mile segment to follow a proposed 230 kV HVTL; this line is also part of the MEP, which likely will not be built.

OTHER ROUTES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

- Existing natural gas pipeline ROWs, some connecting to the Great Lakes Gas (GLG) 36" pipeline along Hwy 2, could be shared or paralleled, or the pipeline could be upgraded.
- A line runs from LaPrairie (GLG access point) to Coleraine. From there it could: follow Hwy 169 to Nashwauk; or proceed northeast then east to Nashwauk along the proposed route.
- A line runs from LaPrairie (GLG access point) to Nashwauk.
- A line runs from Virginia to Nashwauk.
- Another existing ROW is an electric transmission line running from Cohasset (GLG access point) to Nashwauk.
- If it is necessary to create a new ROW to access the GLG line on Hwy 2, the route should start farther east, at Swan River: it could follow Hwy 65; or it could follow an abandoned railroad grade along Hwy 65 and Hwy 16, then north on the Auburn Snowmobile Trail to Nashwauk. This route would be approximately the same length as the proposed route and should have comparable costs.

THE MPUC SHOULD ESTABLISH A CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE to study other routes.

To: provide meaningful opportunity for public input; receive suggestions regarding alternate routes; consider and propose routes or route segments; aid and advise the PUC in evaluating routes.

DENIAL OF EXEMPTION NEED NOT DELAY MSI PROGRESS

- An MSI representative previously stated at an Itasca County meeting that it could initially function using gas from the NNG pipeline that serves the building site.

Too often in our world today the rights of corporations are overriding the rights of property owners and the environment. Exemptions should not be granted to corporations to facilitate their expansion. They need to follow the rules in place.

Sincerely,

Debra and Robert Tester
10640 Townline Road
Hibbing, MN 55746

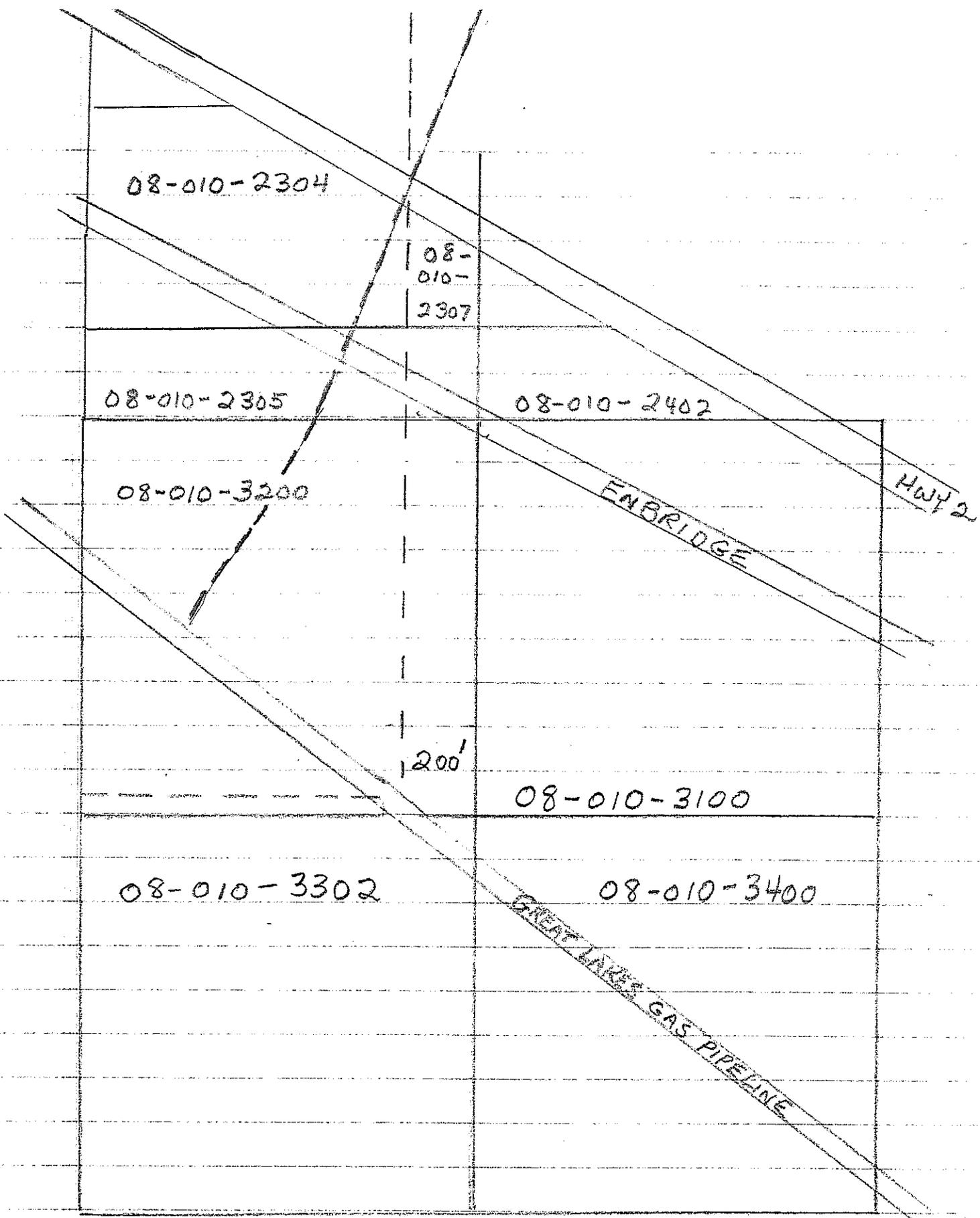
More photos, more messages, more storage □ get 2GB with Windows Live Hotmail.

MICHAEL KARNA
21205 BLUEBIRD DRIVE
GRAND RAPIDS, MN. 55744
PHONE 218-326-6061

ALTERNATE PROPOSAL TO SEH ROUTE
ACROSS MY PROPERTY.

DIAGONAL CUT ACROSS 08-010-3200
TOTALLY VOIDS FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF
THIS PARCEL. MY PROPOSED ROUTE WOULD
HAVE A FAR LESS NEGATIVE EFFECT ON
MY FUTURE DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS
ON PARCELS 08-010-3200 AND 08-010-2304.

I OWN A 43x72 MORTON BLDG ON PARCEL
08-010-2304 THAT COULD BE LEASED
TO HOUSE EQUIPMENT ETC. DURING
CONSTRUCTION.



FENCE & LOCKED GATE N PROPERTY LINE (HWY 2)

--- ROAD

--- NASHWALK PIPELINE (MINE STRAIGHT/SEH ANGLED)

FENCE AT NW & SE PROPERTY LINES & LOCKED GATE ON ROAD



Public Comment Sheet



Haase

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

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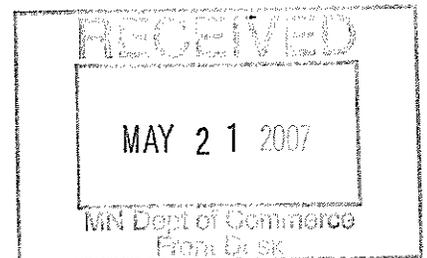
The MPUC should deny the permit and partial exemption application. This project will have a significant effect on humans and the environment. Blackberry township already has other pipelines and more are in the planning stage. This is a significant safety factor for where we live. We feel it would be like sitting on a time bomb surrounded on 3 sides of our home by pipelines. We are fearful for our lives. We also are getting ready for retirement and plan to sell our home. The pipeline will affect the value of our property. Other routes should be considered. There are existing pipelines that could be shared or upgraded. It could start further east on Hwy 2 where there are bogs and unpopulated land. The MPUC should establish a Citizen Advisory Committee.

*James & Cynthia Redley
26712 Happy Hollow Rd.
Grand Rapids, MN
55744*

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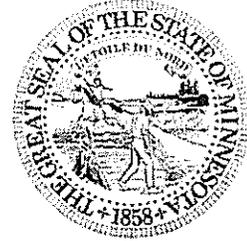
**Comments must be received by
May 18, 2007**





Public Comment Sheet

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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures should be denied.

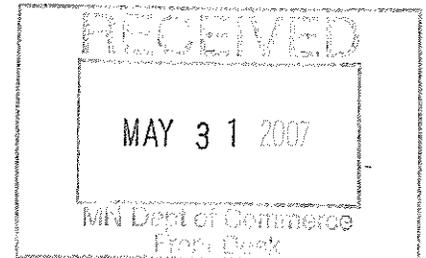
We need alternate routes that won't impact so many property owners. For example there is an abandoned railroad bed that runs north of Swan River along Hwy. 65 and from Goodland along Co. Rd. 76 and eventually leads to Nashwauk. We need a citizens advisory committee.

Darrell White

22700 County Road 70

Bovey, MN. 55709

Darrell White



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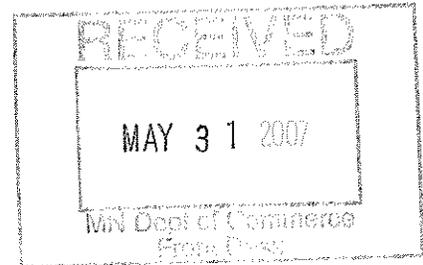
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The application by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission for a partial exemption from pipeline route selection procedures should not be granted.

We need alternate routes that will not impact a great number of land owners. For example there is an abandoned pipeline that is south of Nashwauk that could be checked into. We need a citizens advisory committee.

Delores White
22710 County Road 70
Bovey, MN. 55709

Delores White



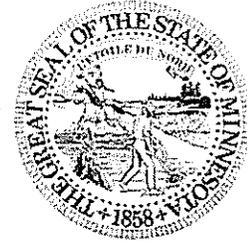
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It has been brought to my attention that you have chosen a route for the MSI gas pipeline without following the law. There are other routes to be considered and I suggest that you let us choose an advisory committee, as the law states, from local citizens to be on this committee.

This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E-280/GP-06-1481.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Carl Canville'.

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

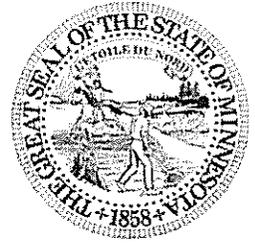
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June 8, 2007**

WE WANT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATE ROUTES.



Public Comment Sheet



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NO FAST TRACK SHOULD BE GRANTED

ALL ALTERNATIVE ROUTES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

THERE ARE OTHER BETTER LESS INTRUSIVE AND MORE DIRECT ROUTES THAT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

ROUTING TO MESABA ENERGY WILL IN ALL LIKELIHOOD NOT HAPPEN SO THIS ROUTE WHICH IS BASED ON SERVING BOTH MESABA ENERGY AND MINNESOTA STEEL WOULD NOT BE THE BEST.

CROSSSET ROUTE ALONG POWER LINES MUCH SHORTER AND LESS INTRUSIVE TO PEOPLE AND PROPERTY.

ROUTE ALONG ABANDONED SWAMPY RAILROAD BED ALSO LESS INTRUSIVE AND WAS NOT LOOKED AT WHY?

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June 8, 2007

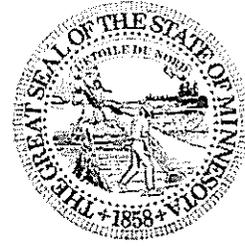
WILLIAM KAUFF

HWY 61 N @ A100.COM

WONTER ROUTE IS THROUGH BLACKBERRY SWAMP AND SANDY CREEK BLACKDIN AND COUNTY LAND. NOT LOOKED AT.

Public Comment Sheet

In the Matter of the Partial Exemption
Application for the Proposed
Nashauk to Blackberry Natural Gas
Pipeline Project submitted by the
Nashauk Public Utilities Commission



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

Please share your comments on the Partial Exemption Application for a proposed natural gas pipeline to run from Blackberry, MN to Nashauk, MN. The application was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission by the Nashauk Public Utilities Commission and was accepted on March 29th (Docket No. PL, E-280/GP-06-1481). Comments on the partial exemption application will be accepted through June 8, 2007.

*How can you ever think of pushing
for these plants - M.S.D. & the Mesaba
Project when you know how harmful
it will be to our health. You &
our politicians certainly know the
harm. We, also, know about the
10 million dollar fund that was
given to Tom Micheletti to "buy"
you people. Don't let us
learn what we know!
In reference to Colleen Blade*

There are three options for submitting comments on this project:

- 1) Submitting comments at the conclusion of tonight's meeting
- 2) emailing comments to jeffrey.haase@state.mn.us
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*Neither you, nor Tom Micheletti can buy
your way into heaven when you will be
in the death of so many!*



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

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Why is Nashwauk taking responsibility for construction of a 24" gas line to accommodate MSI. It appears that MSI is using the local communities to build a dream steel plant. Building the roads, railways, and necessary items to operate this plant should be paid by the plant owners. Why is this gas line being pushed through the City of Taconite route? It is a known fact that there is gas line at the present time to the Nashwauk-Butler Taconite area.

We are concerned regarding the money that the county is spending for this project. We are concerned about the property consumed by the building of this gas line route. Please consider closely our rights as tax payers.



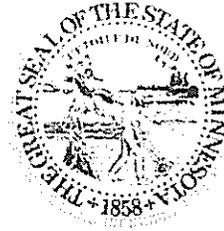
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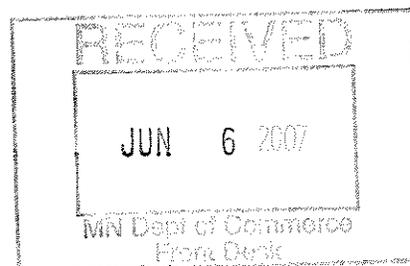


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I see that the gas line for the MSI plant is a huge question to a large number of the citizens of this county. I am concerned that the people of Itasca County will be *taken* financially for this endeavor. It seems unreasonable to build this expensive pipeline when there is a known pipe route already to Nashwauk. How many landowners are going to give up property and be inconvenienced by this pipeline? I believe that those who will build and operate this plant should be financially responsible for all costs for the construction of the business.



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MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE

Public Comment Sheet

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Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas
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MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

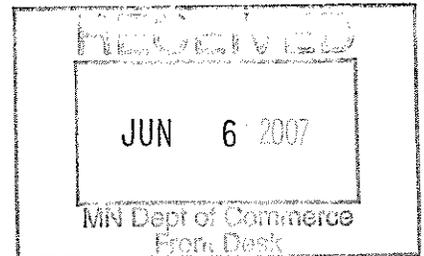
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THE APPLICATION BY NASHWAUK PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION FOR A PARTIAL EXEMPTION FROM PIPELINE ROUTE SELECTION PROCEDURES SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED.

WE NEED ALTERNATE ROUTES THAT WILL NOT IMPACT A GREAT NUMBER OF LANDOWNERS. WE NEED A CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE NASHWAUK PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION "MUST SELECT ROUTES THAT MINIMIZE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT."

WILLARD KARJALA
P.O. BOX 1
BOVEY, MN. 55709

Willard Karjala



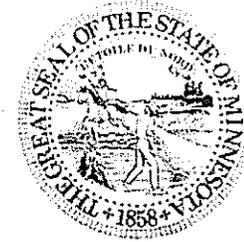
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Public Comment Sheet



In the Matter of the Partial Exemption Application for the Proposed Nashwauk to Blackberry Natural Gas Pipeline Project submitted by the Nashwauk Public Utilities Commission

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

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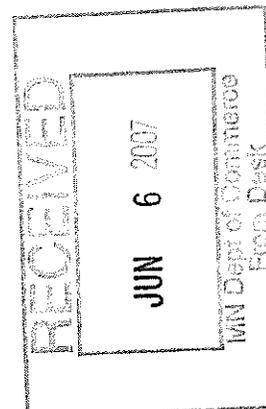
After attending the meeting at Nashwauk and hearing a lawyer tell us that you had not followed the law in choosing the route for the gas pipeline, I strongly oppose anything further being done until an advisory committee is chosen and the other routes discussed in this committee. This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481.

Janet L. Brandon

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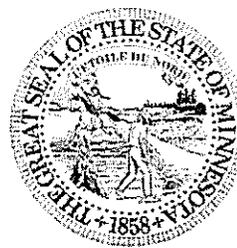




MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
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Public Comment Sheet

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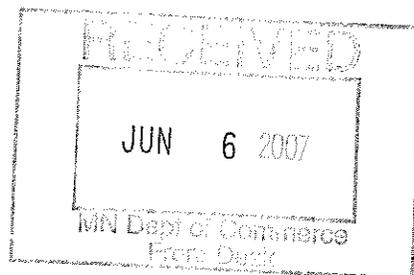
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I do not feel the partial exemption should be granted. The routing shown is not the original routing, changes have been made, and a shorter more practical route is available.

I am a land owner and permanent resident and do not feel a partial exemption is fair to the residents of Massena county.

*Olmer D Pederson
19224 C.R. 58
Hastwood Minn.*



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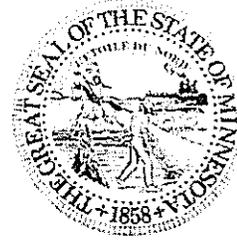
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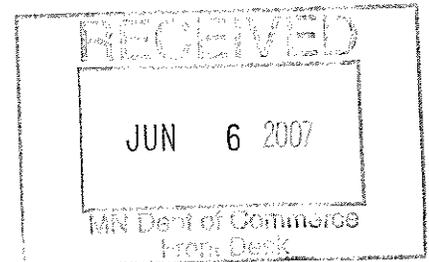
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In reference to MPUC Docket Number PL, E-280/GP-06-1481, I firmly oppose the MSI Project as it will have a significant effect on human health and our environment. The law clearly states that an advisory committee must be chosen from the people here to look at alternate routes for the gas pipeline before a route is chosen. This has not been done, yet a route has been chosen. A committee must be chosen to look at alternate routes before any decision can be made.

*I do hope you considered
all options to Docket # PL, E-284/GP-06-1481.*

Janel L. Brandon



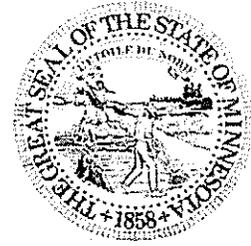
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Public Comment Sheet



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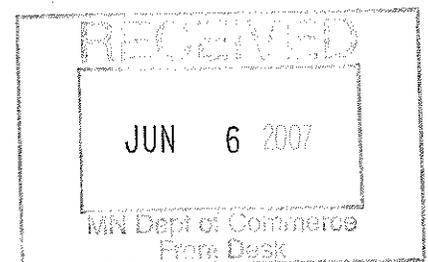
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It has been brought to my attention that you have chosen a route for the MSI gas pipeline without following the law. There are other routes to be considered and I suggest that you let us choose an advisory committee, as the law states, from local citizens to be on this committee.

This is in reference to MPUC Docket Number PL,E-280/GP-06-1481.

Janet L. Brandon

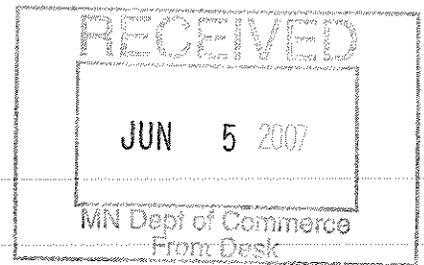


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To: Sharon Ferguson



From: Roland and Rene' Mann

Re: Nashwauk - Blackberry Pipeline
Docket # PL, E-280/GP-06-1481

We are writing to request that the PUC deny the partial exemption from pipeline route selection for TWO reasons:

- 1) Trout Lake Township already has an existing pipeline that should be upgraded if this is necessary, rather than running another line.
- 2) There is a better alternative route following a railroad grade to Nashwauk that is east of Trout Lake Township.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,
Roland L. Mann
Rene' Mann