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April 4, 2014

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA)
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101
Email: larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Sent via electronic mail

**Re: In the Matter of the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company, LLC
for a Pipeline Routing Permit for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project
Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: PL-6668/PPL-13-474**

Dear Mr. Hartman:

I am writing on behalf of Minnesota Trout Unlimited, a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to protect, restore and sustain coldwater fisheries and watersheds in Minnesota and the region. Our several thousand members are sportsmen and sportswomen who regularly recreate across northern Minnesota, including its many trout streams and their tributaries. Our members fish the trout streams which all proposed pipeline routes would cross, and have invested hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to improve habitat on several of these rivers which could be harmed by construction and/or operation of the pipeline. Many members work in the pipeline industry or for companies which would supply services to the industry. We are nonetheless united in our belief that pipeline routes should be chosen so as to minimize the short and long-term impacts to our rare coldwater streams and the aquifers which sustain them. The very best technology and construction practices must be used where it is not possible to avoid crossing the watershed and aquifer of every coldwater stream and river.

We realize that our economy requires the use of petroleum products and that these products will be shipped across Minnesota for the foreseeable. Minnesota Trout Unlimited has not prejudged the need or wisdom of the overall pipeline project, and instead will focus its comments on the alternative routes or route segments that should be considered in order to protect high quality trout waters.

Our greatest concerns are with the permanence of impacts to groundwater flow patterns of the aquifers feeding these trout streams and the potentially devastating consequences of spills. Given the fragile nature of these irreplaceable, rare resources we believe that the protection of water quality, hydrology and aquatic organisms must be paramount, regardless of the monetary cost to ensure it. Proper routing which seeks to avoid running through these watersheds is the best option.

For this reason, we urge that the pipeline route in Carlton County be altered to avoid cutting through the Blackhoof River watershed. This is the most important coldwater fishery in the Nemadji basin. Attached are three maps showing two alternative routes which utilize existing right of ways.

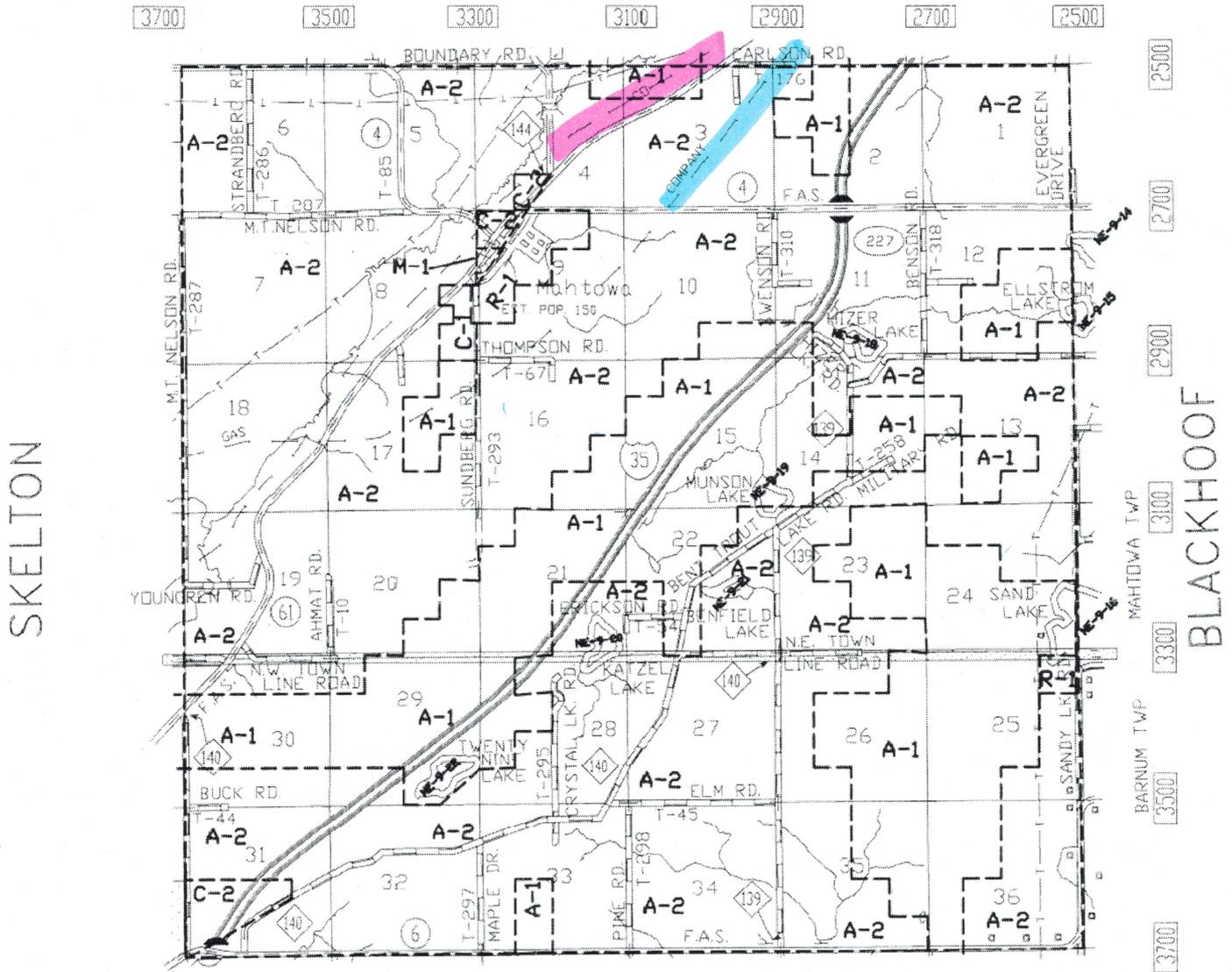
Thank you for the opportunity to comment upon this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/John P. Lenczewski

MAHTOWA BARNUM

T. 47 N. - R. 18 W. SAWYER-ATKINSON

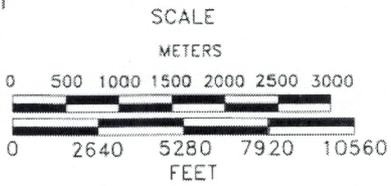


SKELTON

BLACKHOOF

BARNUM

- LEGEND**
- A-1 AGRICULTURE/FOREST MANAGEMENT
 - A-2 AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL
 - C-1 COMMERCIAL RECREATION
 - C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL
 - M-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL
 - R-1 RECREATION RESIDENTIAL

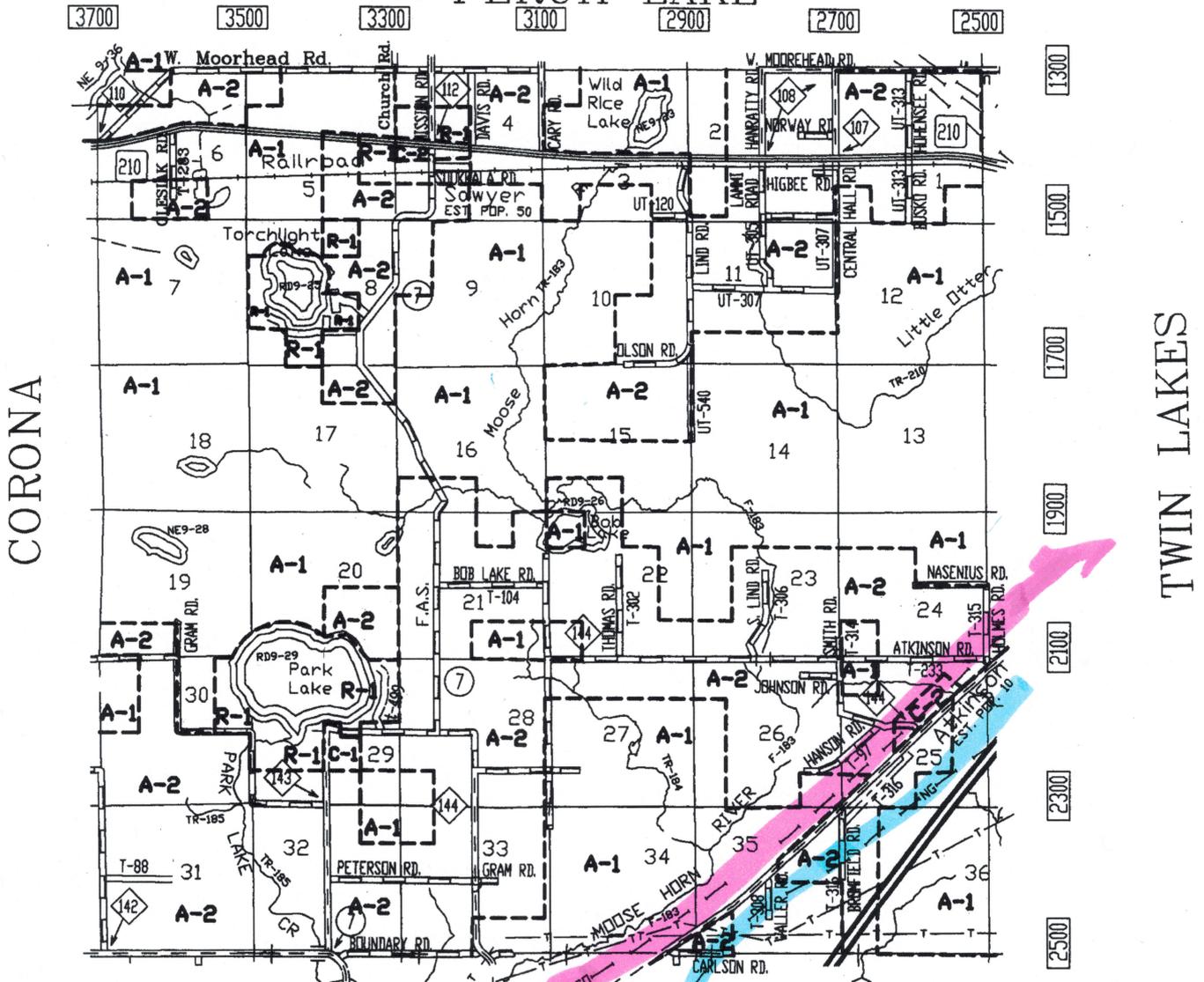


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 - COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY = 7
 - COUNTY HIGHWAY = 140
 - TOWNSHIP ROADS = T-88
 - UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP ROADS = UT-88
 - TELEPHONE LINES = T
 - NATURAL GAS LINES = NG
 - TRANSMISSION LINES =
 - FEDERAL AID PRIMARY = F.A.P.
 - FEDERAL AID SECONDARY = F.A.S.

SAWYER ATKINSON

T. 48 N. - R. 18 W.

PERCH LAKE

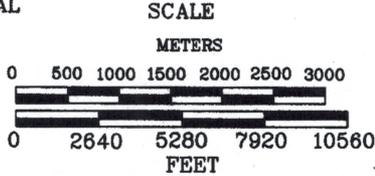


CORONA

TWIN LAKES

MAHTOWA

- LEGEND**
- A-1 AGRICULTURE/FORREST MANAGEMENT
 - A-2 AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL
 - C-1 COMMERCIAL RECREATION
 - C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL
 - M-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL
 - R-1 RECREATION RESIDENTIAL

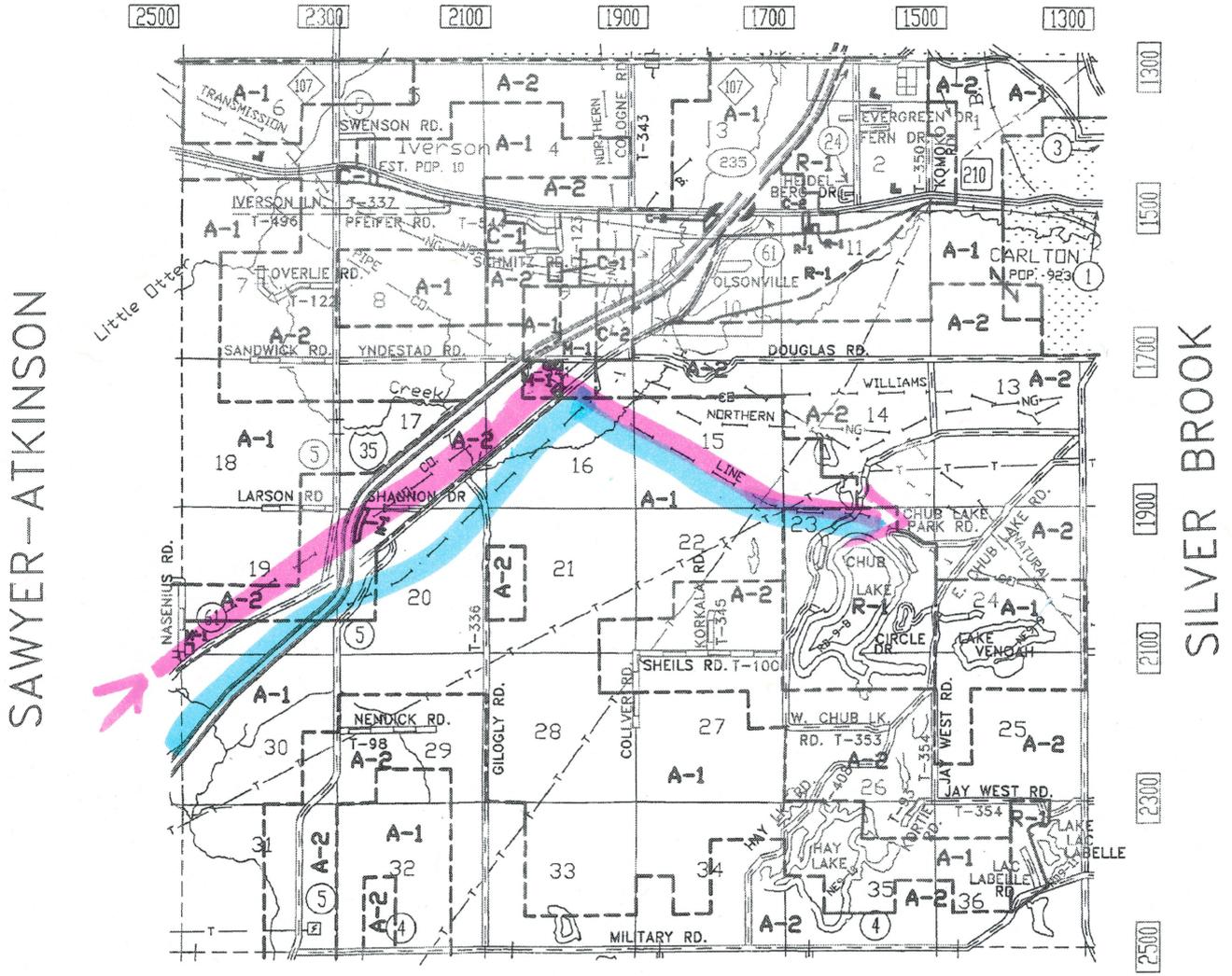


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 - COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY = [Symbol]
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 - TOWNSHIP ROADS = T-88
 - UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP ROADS = UT-88
 - TELEPHONE LINES = [Symbol]
 - NATURAL GAS LINES = [Symbol]
 - TRANSMISSION LINES = [Symbol]
 - FEDERAL AID PRIMARY = F.A.P.
 - FEDERAL AID SECONDARY = F.A.S.

TWIN LAKES

T. 48 N. - R. 17 W.

CLOQUET



SAWYER-ATKINSON

SILVER BROOK

BLACKHOOF

LEGEND

- A-1 AGRICULTURE/FOREST MANAGEMENT
- A-2 AGRICULTURE/RURAL RESIDENTIAL
- C-1 COMMERCIAL RECREATION
- C-2 HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL
- M-1 LIMITED INDUSTRIAL
- R-1 RECREATION RESIDENTIAL

SCALE

METERS

0 500 1000 1500 2000 2500 3000



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FEET

LEGEND

- STATE HIGHWAY = 210
- COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY = 7
- COUNTY HIGHWAY = 107
- TOWNSHIP ROADS = T-88
- UNORGANIZED TOWNSHIP ROADS = UT-88
- TELEPHONE LINES = T
- NATURAL GAS LINES = NG
- TRANSMISSION LINES = T
- FEDERAL AID PRIMARY = F.A.P.
- FEDERAL AID SECONDARY = F.A.S.