

**From:** Albert Sims [mailto:simsx008@umn.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2014 3:56 PM  
**To:** Hartman, Larry (COMM)  
**Cc:** Dale Kopecky; Kelley Brandt; Gregory Cuomo  
**Subject:** Alternative Route Segment for Sandpiper Pipeline

Dear Mr Hartman,

I am the Director of Operations of the University of Minnesota's Northwest Research and Outreach Center (NWROC) just north of Crookston, Minnesota. I am ultimately responsible for the management of university resources here at NWROC to make sure the university can fulfill its mission. I attended the public hearing that was held in Crookston in early March. I write now to propose an alternate route of the pipeline through university property.

Docket # 13-474.

The proposed pipeline route travels through a narrow nearly a mile long field (South half of Section 12, T-150-N, R-46-W). Here at the NWROC we refer to this field as Field 18. My farm foreman and I have studied this proposed route and given much consideration to its location. I want to propose an alternate route in the field just to the north of the current proposed route, we call this Field 17. There is a drainage ditch that separates these two fields, which is located in the picture under the north blue line delineating what I believe is the north side of the construction right-a-way and I am proposing the pipeline be placed to the north of that drainage ditch. I have attached a map of the area with the current proposed route and I have hand drawn in a dashed line over the same length for the proposed alternate route. The alternate route may not be exactly accurate in its location, but it is north of the drainage ditch that separates Fields 18 and 17.

We have one major reason for this request. If you look at the map, you can see that there is a significant amount of research plots just to the south of Field 18, where the current proposed route is located. Since becoming Director of Operations at NWROC a little over 3 years ago I have received numerous requests for research resources that we have not seen before. It has become obvious that the requirement for research land will be increasing in the coming years. Finding research land that meets the requirements needed and is readily accessible for field tours and actually doing the research can be difficult. I have always had in the back of my mind that Field 18 could be a possible research expansion location because it has similar soil as the research land to the south and is readily accessible. The drainage ditch to the north makes this a very narrow field, but still useable for commercial or research purposes. It is my belief that Field 18 has more potential as a future research site than Field 17. However, if the Sandpiper Pipeline goes through Field 18 it may make it unusable for research because it would effectively narrow the field even more. Moving the pipeline north across the drainage ditch to Field 17 would leave Field 18 completely open for future research use.

The proposed alternate route is not that much further than the current proposed route. It might require make the angle from either the east or west a little more sharp or force the angel to start a little sooner to maintain the current angle. I have not drawn these angles in. I do want to express my appreciation that the proposed route did not go through our current research land. However, moving the route a little further north would provide additional space for a future expansion of research land.

This is my request and justification for the request. If you have questions or comments, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Dr. Albert L. Sims

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