



Burl W. Haar, Executive Secretary

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF EXTENDED COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: April 14, 2014

In the Matter of the Application of North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC for a Pipeline Routing Permit for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota

PUC Docket Number: PL-6668/PPL-13-474 (Route Permit)

The deadline for submitting comments on potential human and environmental impacts and alternative pipeline routes to be considered in the comparative environmental analysis in this case has been extended under Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7829.

Topics Open for Comment at this Time:

- Are there any alternative routes or route segments that should be considered?
- What human and environmental impacts should be studied in the comparative environmental analysis?
- Are there any specific methods to address these impacts that should be studied in the comparative environmental analysis?

The new deadline for filing comments is: **Friday, May 30, 2014, at 4:30 p.m.**

Submit Public Comments:

Email: larry.hartman@state.mn.us.

Online: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Fax: 651-539-0109

Persons without email access may send by U.S. mail to: Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul MN 55101. Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (13-474) in all communications.

Future Opportunities for Public Participation: The Commission's review process for routing pipeline projects is governed by both statute and rule. The review process includes several opportunities for citizen input throughout the proceedings, including the recent public information meetings, future public hearings and written public comment periods. Future milestones and public participation opportunities in the routing process include:

- The Commission will decide which alternative pipeline routes will be accepted for consideration at the public hearings.
- The Department will prepare a comparative environmental analysis of all routes accepted for hearing.
- Upon completion of the comparative environmental analysis, public and evidentiary hearings will be scheduled. The public hearings will, among other things, seek public input on the need for the project, as well as the comparative impact of the routes being considered. Typically, public hearings are scheduled in the same locations that the public information meetings were held, however, additional locations are being considered. Citizens will have the opportunity at the public hearings to question witnesses and offer oral and written comments into the record.
- Information gathered at the public and evidentiary hearings and during the subsequent comment period will be used by the administrative law judge (ALJ) to write a report for the Commission. The report will include findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations on the merits of the proposed project, whether the project is needed, a preferred route alternative for the new pipeline, and conditions or provisions for the proposed route permit. In addition, the ALJ's report will include all evidence properly submitted into the record for the case, including public comments.
- After receiving the ALJ's report, the Commission will convene a public meeting at which it will consider the record thus presented and make a final decision on the permit.

Filing Requirements: Utilities, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's eFiling system at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>.

Full Case Record: All documents filed in this docket are available on the Commission's website at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Search eDockets," enter the year (13) and the docket number (474), select "Search."

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate at: docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2204.

Subscribe to the Docket: Receive notification when new documents are filed in this matter at: www.puc.state.mn.us, select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts.

Questions about this docket or Commission process and procedure? Contact Scott Ek of the Commission staff at 651-201-2255 or scott.ek@state.mn.us.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service.