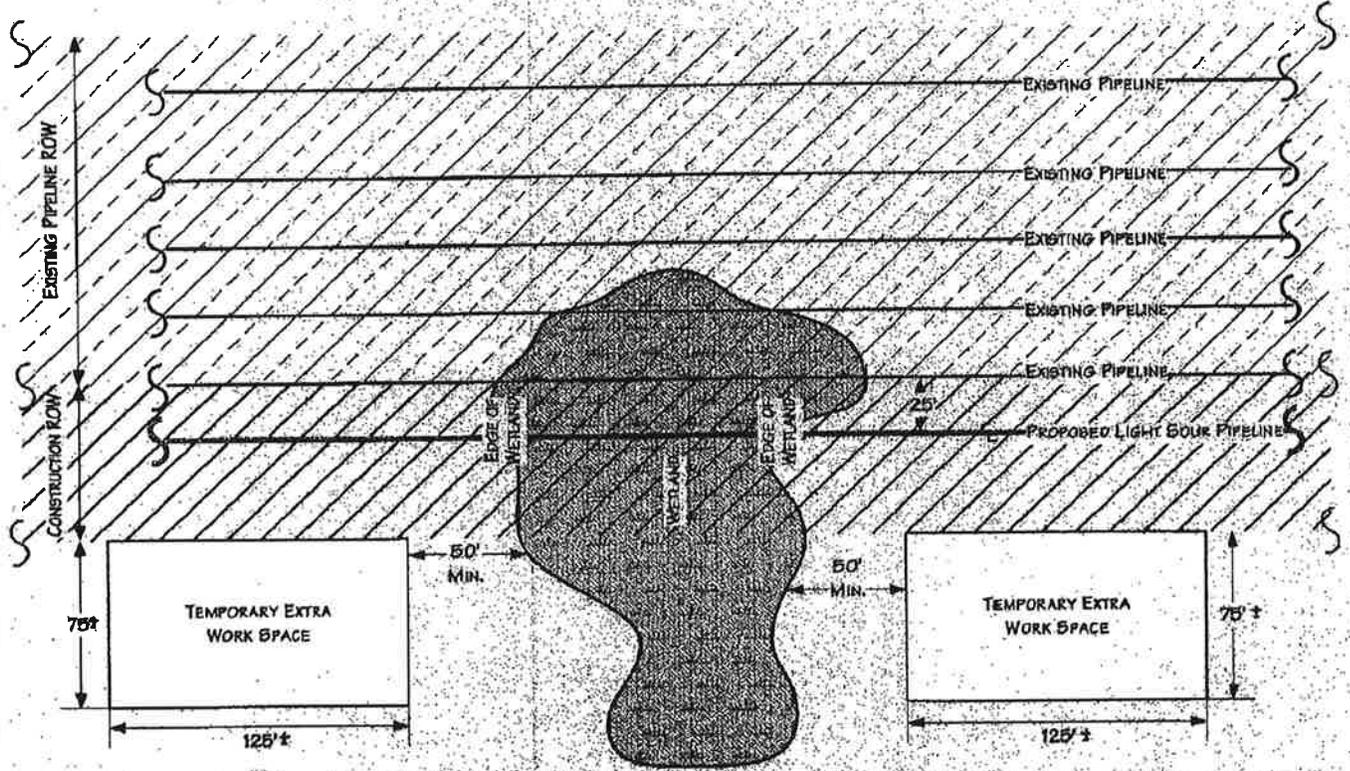


For environmental review purposes only.



**Typical Temporary Extra Workspace
at Foreign Pipeline and Utility Crossings**

DATE: 11/2/2005
REVISED: 3/16/2007
SCALE: INTS
DRAWN BY: KJA3361
<small>KLINGSTUBBINS ASSOCIATES, INC.</small>



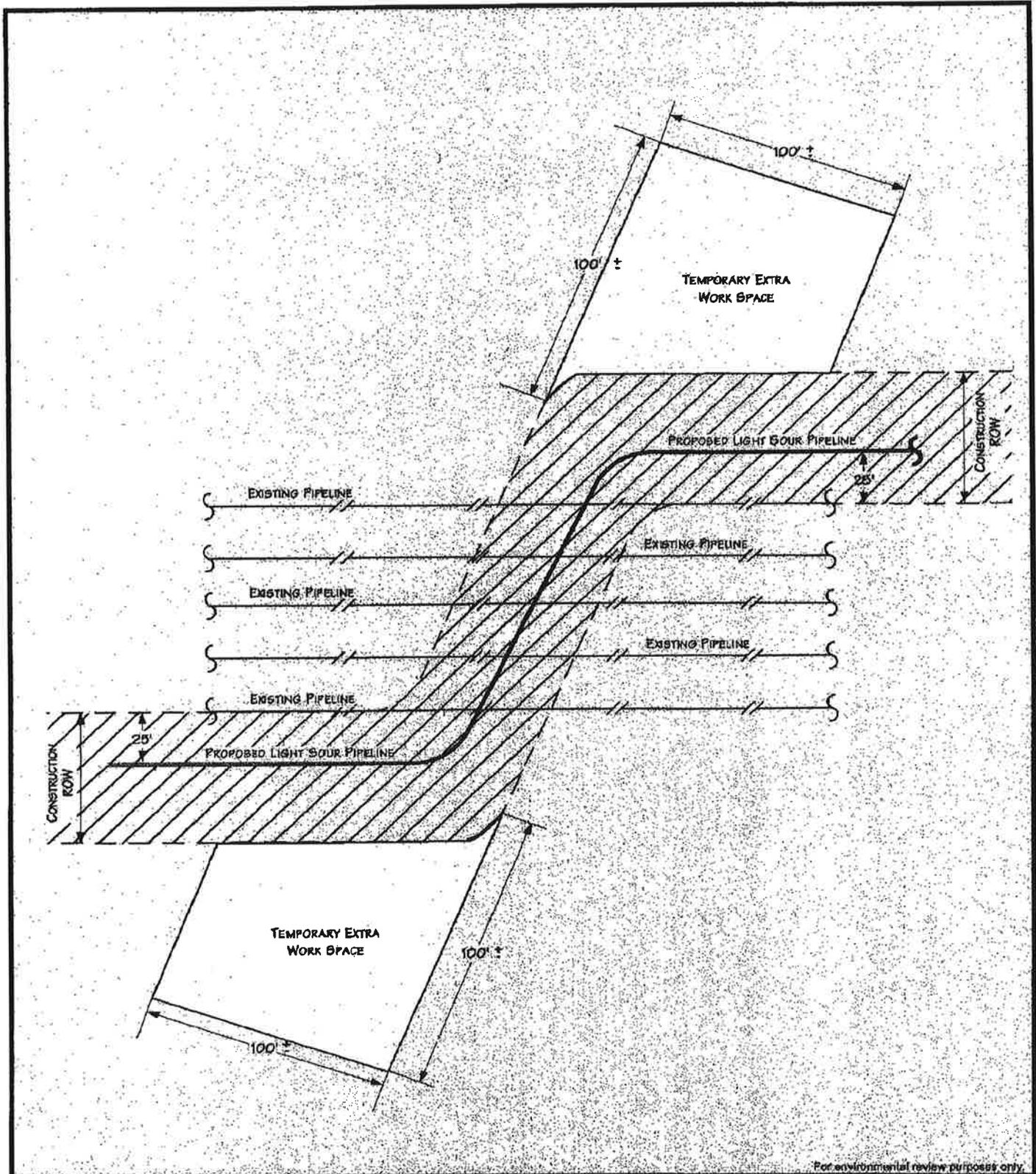
NOTE: TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE MAY NEED TO BE EXTENDED IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.
 THE 50' MINIMUM SETBACK MAY BE REDUCED DUE TO SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

For environmental review purposes only.



**Typical Temporary Extra Workspace
 for Push/Pull Wetland Crossings**

DATE: 11/2/2005
 REVISED: 3/15/2007
 SCALE: NTS
 DRAWN BY: KJA3381
 KMS34ROW_DRAWING33.DWG V02

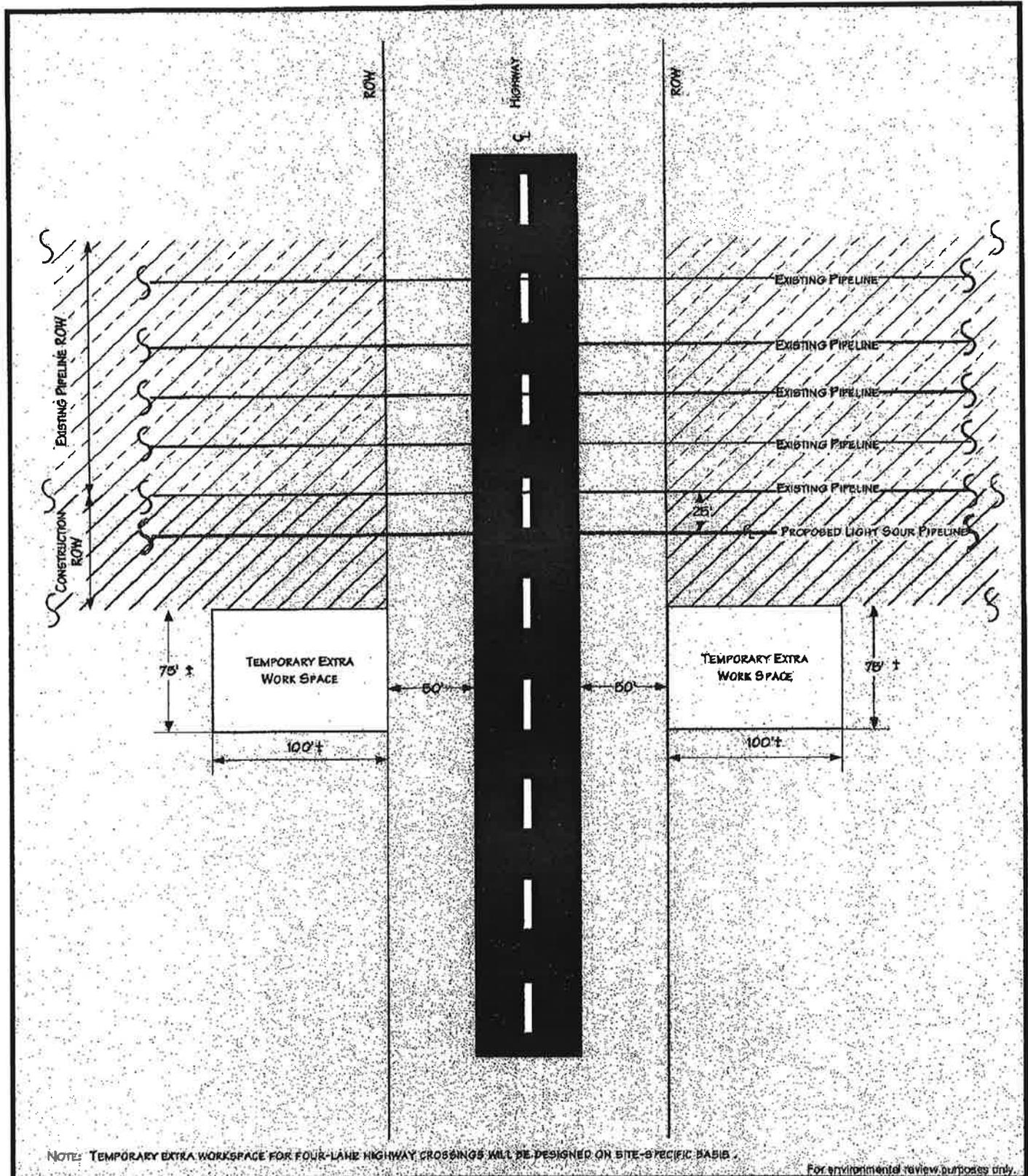


For environmental review purposes only.



**Typical Temporary Extra Workspace
at Pipeline Crossover**

DATE: 11/2/2005
REVISED: 3/15/2007
SCALE: NTS
DRAWN BY: KJA361
CHECKED BY: [Signature]



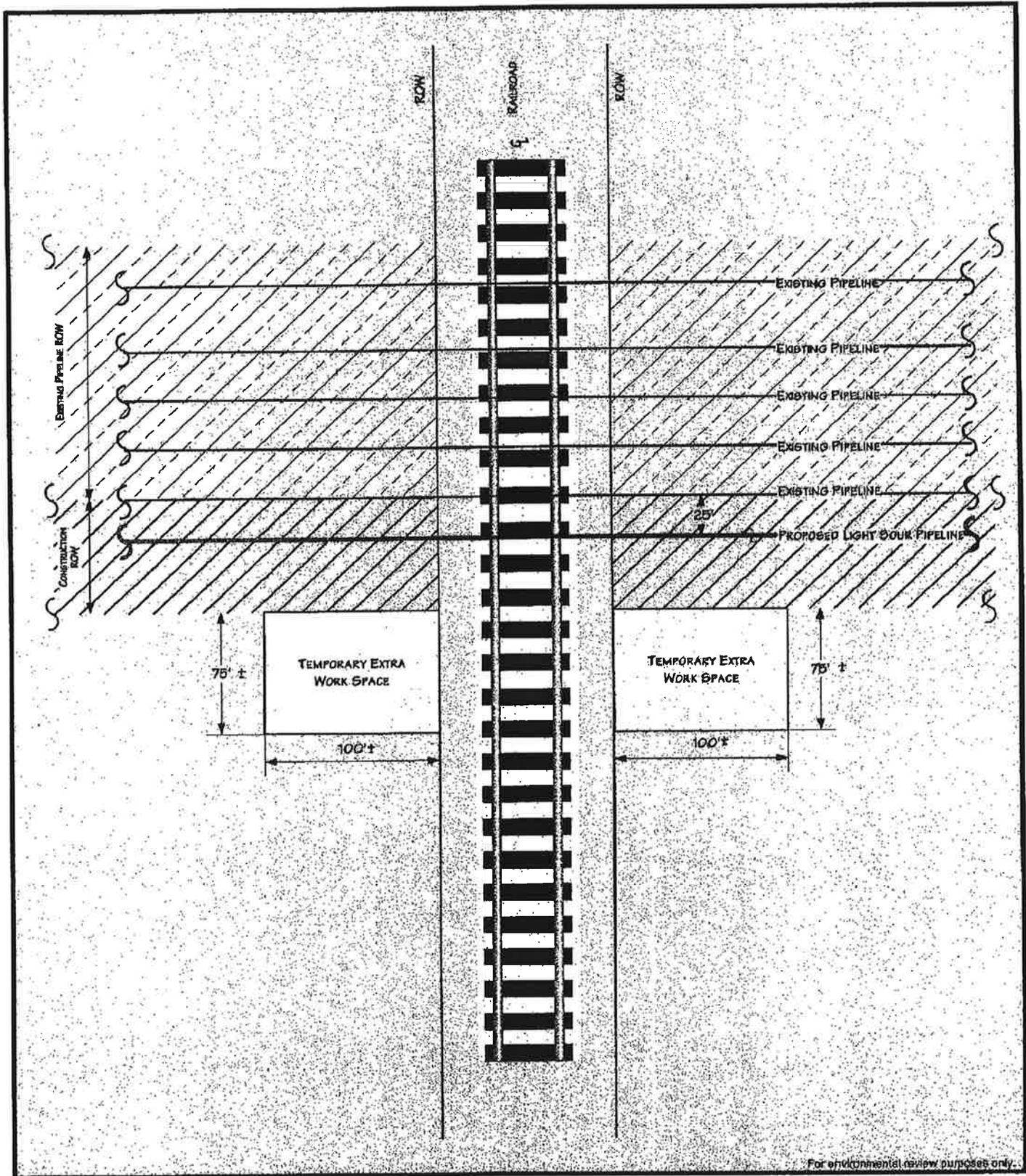
NOTE: TEMPORARY EXTRA WORKSPACE FOR FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY CROSSINGS WILL BE DESIGNED ON SITE-SPECIFIC BASIS.

For environmental review purposes only.



**Typical Temporary Extra Workspace
at Bored Highway Crossings**

DATE: 11/2/2005
REVISED: 3/15/2007
SCALE: NTS
DRAWN BY: KJA3367
KJ336707_DRAWSWKS3367.DWG

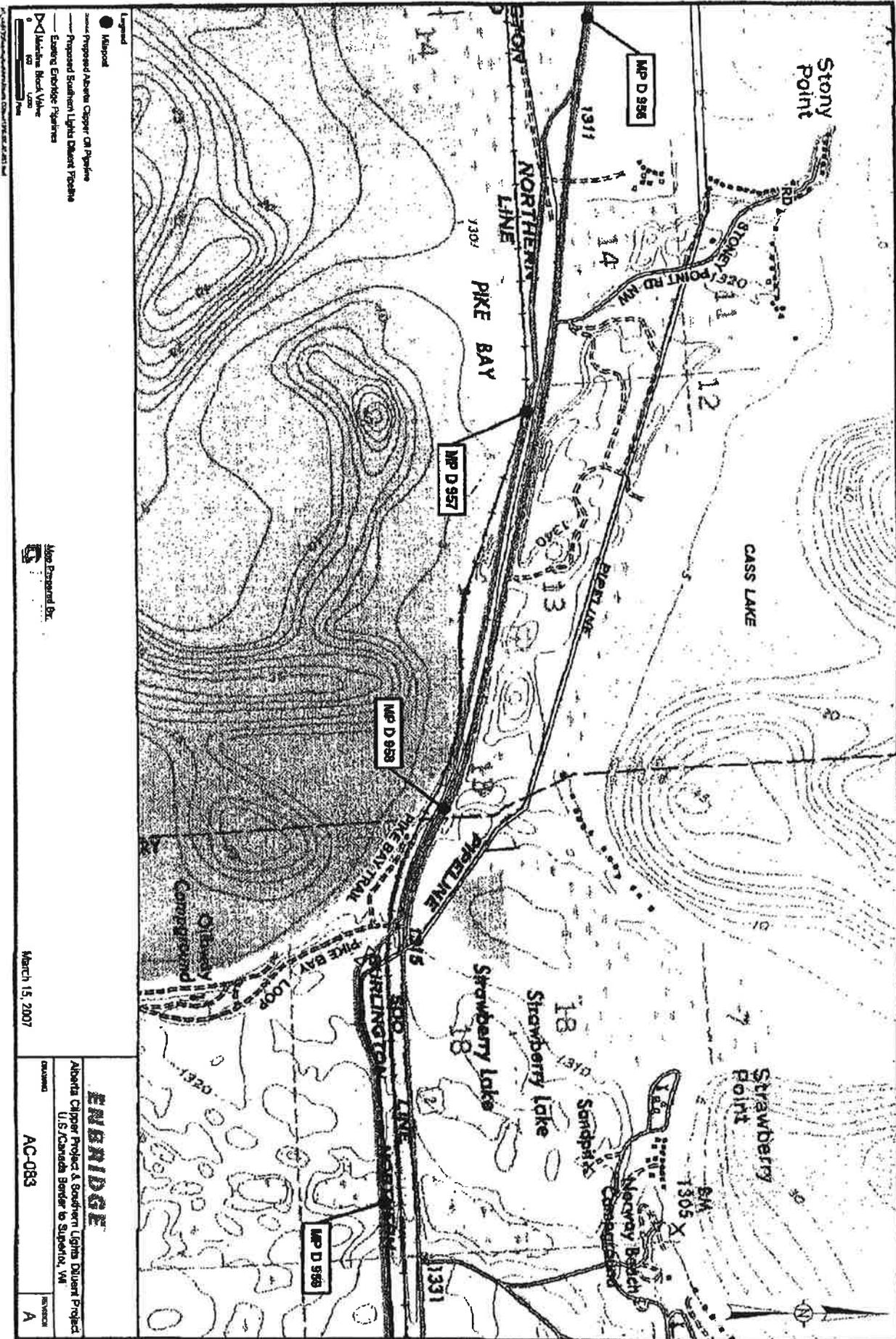


For environmental review purposes only.



**Typical Temporary Extra Workspace
at Bored Railroad Crossings**

DATE: 11/2/2005
REVISED: 3/15/2007
SCALE: NTS
DRAWN BY: KJA386J
K13290W_DRAWINGS_3/15/07



Legend

- Milepost
- Proposed Alberta Copper Oil Pipeline
- Proposed Southern Lights Oilfield Project
- Existing Erosion Features
- ⊗ Milestone Block Value

0 100 200 Feet

Map Prepared By:

 Date: March 15, 2007

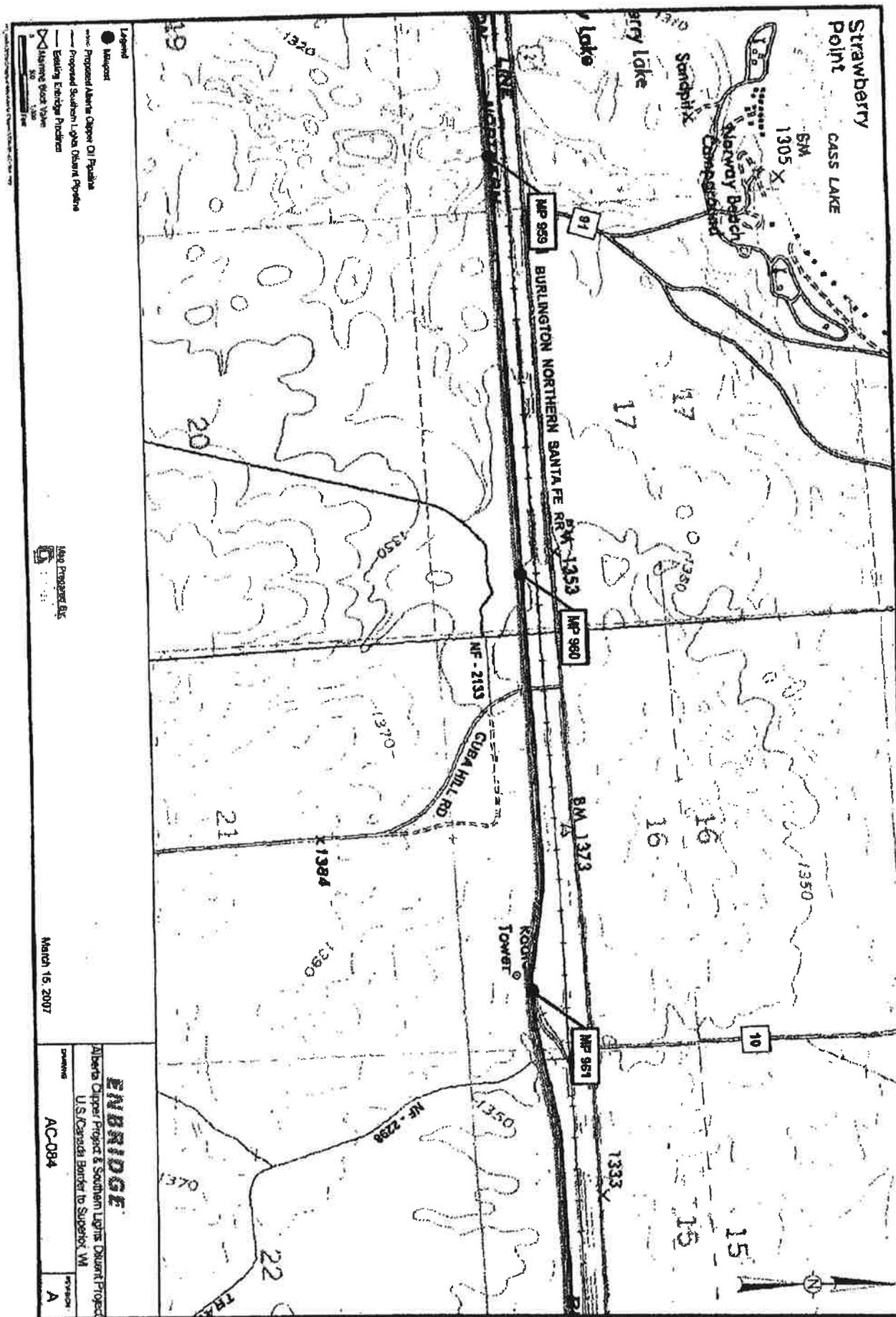
March 15, 2007

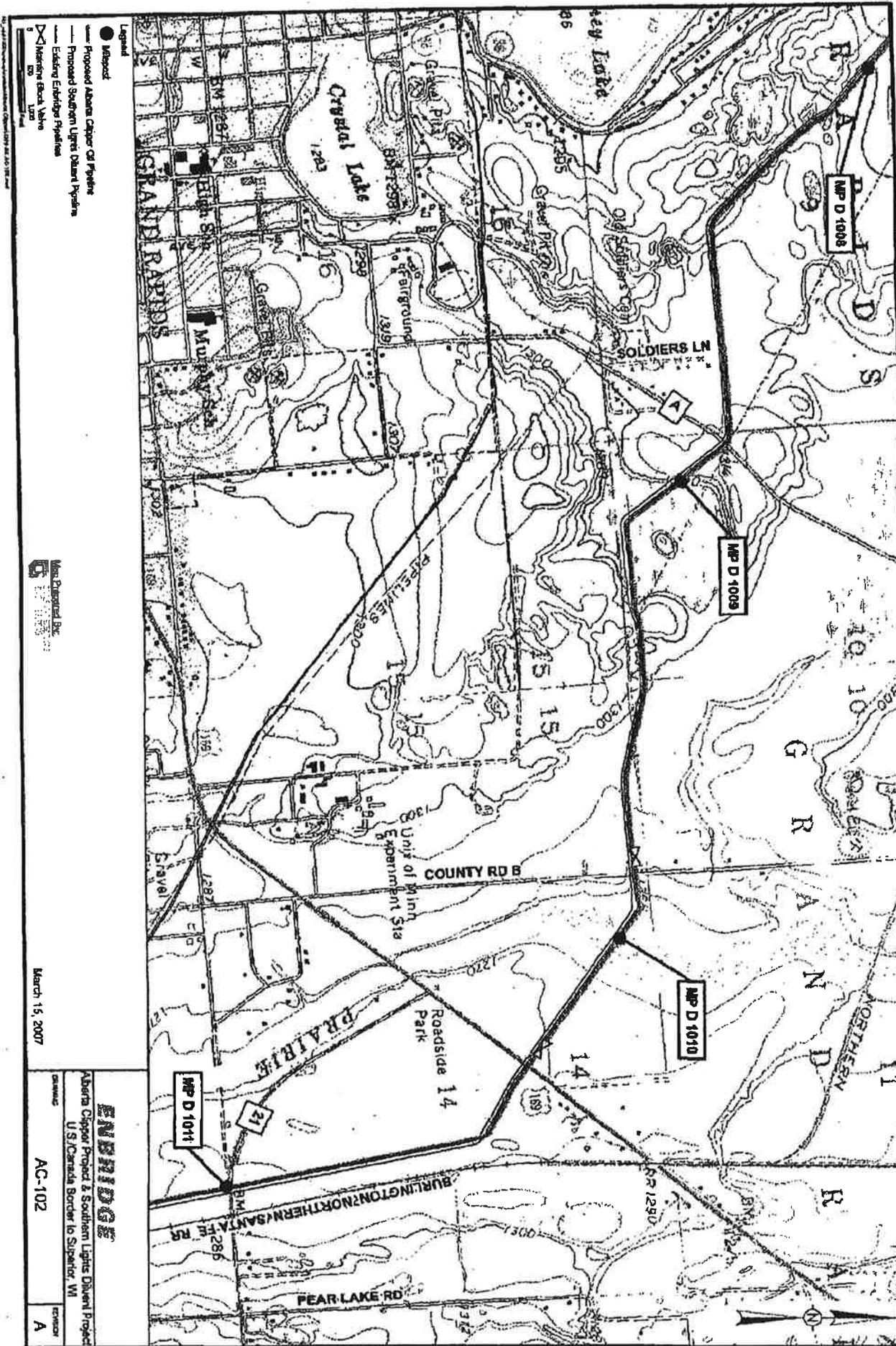
ENERIDGE

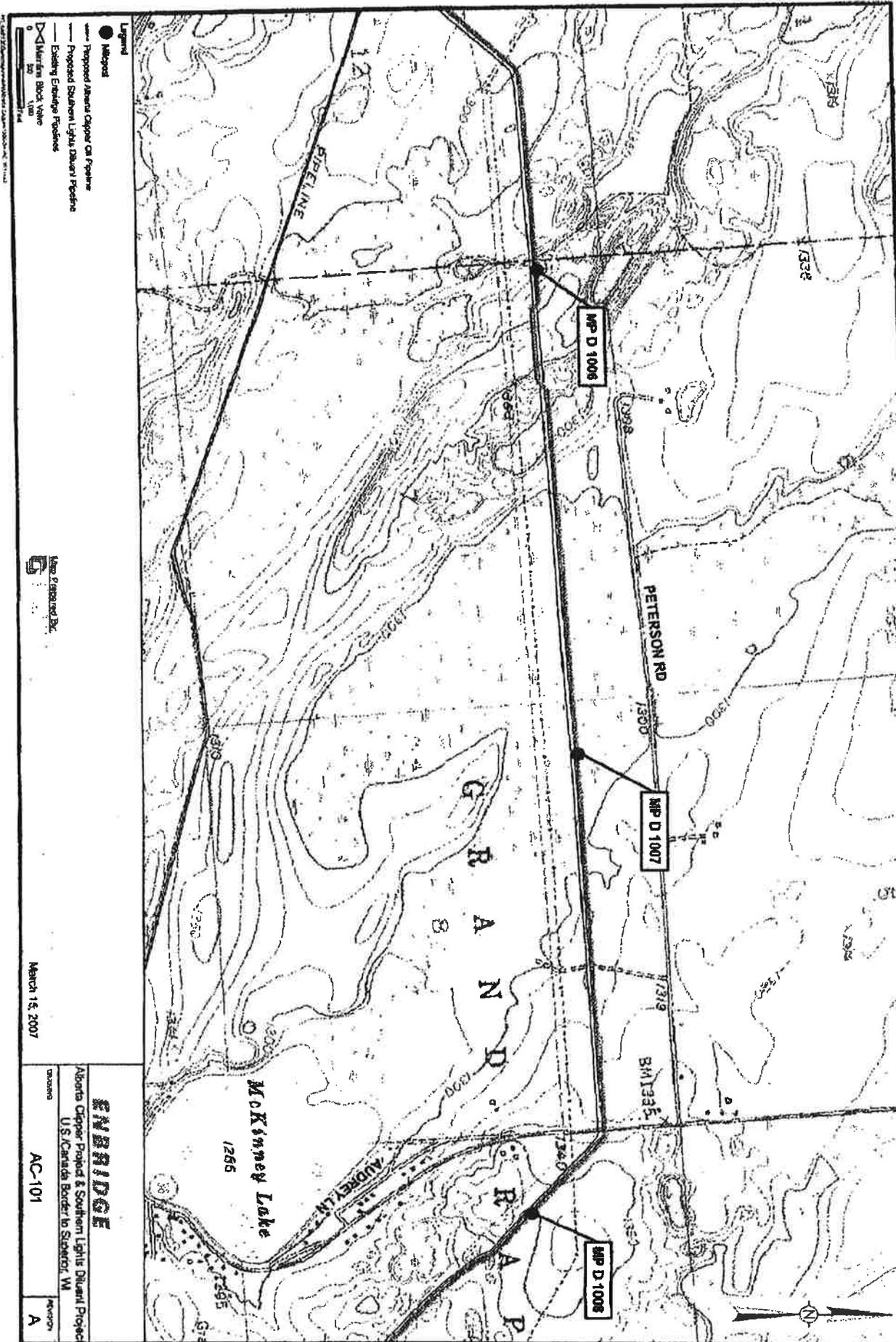
Alberta Copper Project & Southern Lights Oilfield Project
 U.S./Canada Border to Superior, WI

Drawn: AC-085

Revised: A

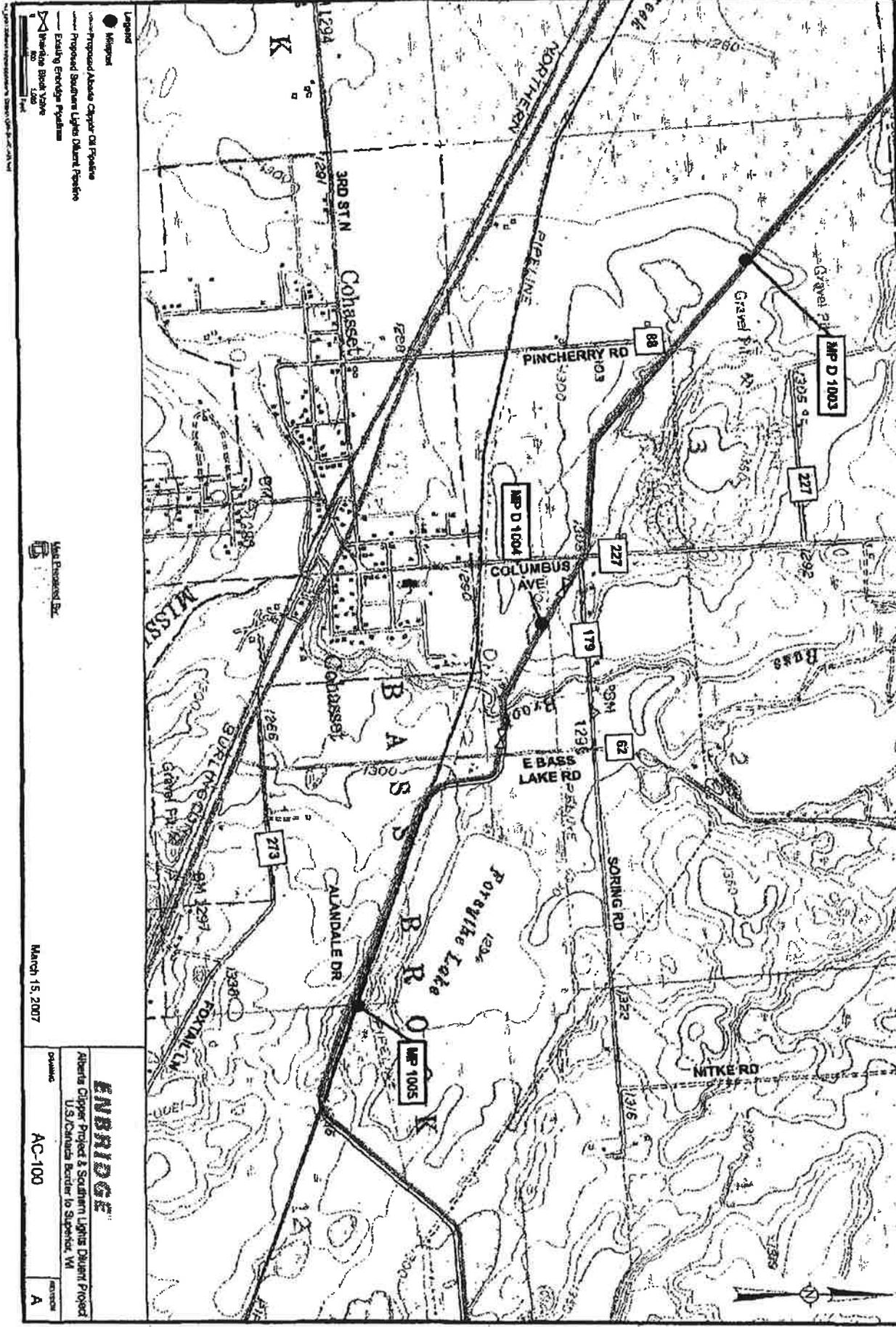






ENBRIDGE
 Alberta Copper Project & Southern Lights Diluent Project
 U.S./Canada Border to Superior, WI

Revision: AC-101 A



Map Enclosed By

March 15, 2007

ENBRIDGE
 Alberta Clipper Project & Southern Lights DuPont Project
 U.S./Canada Border to Superior, WI

Drawn: AC-100
 Checked: A

13-374

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Allen Philo <AllenP@midwesternbioag.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:33 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket number 13-474
Attachments: Docket number 13-474.doc

Honorable Commissioners,

Please see the attached letter in regard to the Docket number indicated in the subject line.

Thank you,

Allen Philo

Allen Philo
5686 Griffiths Road
Dodgeville, WI 53533

April 3rd, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

My name is Allen Philo and I am a farmer as well as the Specialty Crop Consultant for Midwestern BioAg, a company that specializes in fertility consulting and soil health. In the past I was also the Field Operations Manager at Gardens of Eagan (GOE), a large organic vegetable farm near Northfield, MN. I mention this particularly as (GOE) also at one time faced the threat of a pipeline cutting through its farmland, but was able to have the pipeline diverted around the property. However, I saw with my own eyes what the pipeline did to the surrounding farmland, and the effects of the pipeline can still be seen to this day on those farms.

The reason for this has to do with how soil biology works, an especially important point in regards to an organic farm as organic farms rely on biology to make nutrients available to the crop. Soil biology lives in a stratified system in the soil as there are different environments in the soil as you move from one horizon to another. When any sort of major soil disturbance, such as digging for a pipeline, is done to the soil this results in an intermixing of layers and destruction of the soil environment. Also, there are very different chemistries between these areas so if the subsoil chemistry is introduced to the surface this can result in an environment that is unsuitable for recolonization by soil biology that would live in the top horizons. This can, and has in cases where it is done such as the pipeline around GOE, result in a great reduction in the productive capacity of the soils, and may even make them completely unsuitable for organic production. In addition to this, it may even result in the loss of organic certification for the farmer, leading to a further reduction in production options for the farmer.

In an area like Northern Minnesota, where optimal farmland for organic production, and optimal farmland in general is at a premium it seems to me that sacrificing this farmland in order for a new pipeline to be developed outside of existing corridors will result in the loss of a valuable asset to this area.

Co-locating the pipeline in question into the corridor of existing pipelines is the

better alternative to the development of a new corridor that will result in the disturbance/destruction of wild ecosystems and sustainable farming systems

In conclusion, I have written this letter to express my professional opinion about the very real damage that can and will occur if this pipeline is allowed to be built. I want to encourage you to listen closely to the farmers who's land is in jeopardy and express my support for their resistance to this pipeline.

Sincerely,

Allen Philo

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Becky Steinhoff <becksteinhoff@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:28 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Comment for Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474
Attachments: MN Clearest Lakes Pipeline.pdf; Comment for DocketNo_PL-6668_PPL_13-474.doc

Dear Mr. Hartman and Commissioners,
Attached is my comment and a map I would like you to see.
The map depicts the clearest lakes in Minnesota and Enbridge is proposing to put a pipeline right through them.

Thank you so much for your time,
Rebecca Steinhoff

Minnesota Lakes

A View from Space

ENBRIDGE SANDPIPER
PROPOSED PIPELINE ROUTE
IN RED

LOOK
WHERE THE
CLEAREST LAKES
ARE

Census of Water Clarity

Using satellite images taken from space, a statewide census of water clarity – a key indicator of lake water quality – has been created for the first time.

Employing state of the art image analysis technology, the Remote Sensing Laboratory and Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota have used satellite remote sensing to determine clarity transparency for about 10,500 Minnesota lakes. This satellite-based method enables resource managers to analyze how lake water clarity varies statewide over time. Resource managers are using this information to better target monitoring and management efforts.

Lake Clarity Depth

	Feet	Meters
	less than 1.5	less than 0.5
	1.5-3	0.5-1
	3-6	1-2
	6-12	2-4
	greater than 12	greater than 4

 Ecoregion Boundaries



Rebecca Steinhoff
16141 Chokecherry Dr., Nevis, MN
Wednesday, April 02, 2014

To:

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

RE: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL:-13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

I am opposed to Enbridge Pipeline LLC's (North Dakota Pipeline Company) proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

I believe there are better alternatives to the proposed pipeline route. The route they want to use is going right through some of the most pristine land and waterways in North America! I realize that there are pipelines already in place, but this one just doesn't feel right. It's much larger and who is to guarantee that when the oil in the Bakken is depleted they won't start moving the tar sands from Alberta through this pipeline? And where, really, is that oil going after the refinery?

I realize that a different route would put it in someone else's backyard, but would there be less of an impact on the environment? There exists GIS software that by putting in point A and point B it would find the best route of least impact on the environment. Also doing a full in-depth Environmental Impact Study should be required. I do not understand why it's not being done.

A leak would be disastrous, not only for the waterways and marsh lands, but for the wildlife inhabiting the proposed path, the wild rice industry the Indians depend on, and our tourism industry to mention just a few! If you've ever fished the lakes up here you would realize what a treasure we have!

The soil here is sandy and porous. If there were a leak it would reach the aquifers that are already compromised by potato growers. The chemicals from the oil pushing through the pipeline are toxic, many are carcinogenic. Please realize that the swiftest way to poison the drinking water would be a leak from the pipeline!

I also wonder why the comment period is so that the summer residents aren't here to voice their opinions and make their comments. A lot of people have no idea what they're trying to push through. Also, the public hearings should be in the evening so those who work can be there too! A public hearing should have also been scheduled for the White Earth Indian Reservation. I believe they have a lot of rights according to treaties that were signed by both our ancestors!

An extension of the comment period would be fair and right, so that all of our residents can get all the information they should be entitled to and a full and complete Environmental Impact Study can be done.

I moved to this area 3 years ago. I fell in love with the beautiful lakes and forests when I was a kid vacationing up here in the "Northwoods". Believe me, there is no better place to be. It would be horrible to have this beautiful country ruined by a pipeline put in by a company with a less than perfect safety record.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Steinhoff

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Karen Gebhardt <kageb1@gvtel.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 8:20 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket numbers 13-473 13-474
Attachments: Public Comment for Sandpiper.docx

Please confirm receipt of the attached Public Comment letter regarding the Sandpiper project.

Karen Anderson Gebhardt
"Achin' Back Acres"
Leonard, MN 56652

K.A. Gebhardt
Achin' Back Acres
43901 253rd Avenue * Leonard, MN 56652
kageb1@gvtel.com

March 31, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: Docket Number **13-474** PUBLIC COMMENT

Honorable Commissioners:

We are writing today to state our position on the proposed Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline project. As landowners on the Northern alternate route, with 6 Enbridge pipelines currently running across our land in a wide corridor, we are certainly familiar with the realities of pipeline construction, and the Eminent Domain process, the role of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the position of Enbridge Energy in this respect.

We are in favor of domestic oil production, as with the Bakken oil reserves, and moving this domestic oil safely to refineries in the U.S. to help America toward greater energy independence.

However, we are not in favor of granting Enbridge Energy (or NDPC or any other of their named subsidiary companies) the Routing Permit for this project. It is our experience that Enbridge Energy has already demonstrated an inability to comply with MNPUC permitting rules; they have questionable authority in requesting use of Minnesota's Eminent Domain process for the taking of private property; and we question why a foreign company is given the rights to this project when it will mean the transfer of tremendous profits out of the U.S. to Canada, when there are American companies that can do this.

1.) Eminent Domain Authority:

Since Mark Curwin, of Enbridge, confirmed (in the Clearbrook, MN information meeting on March 4, 2014) that they move Canadian oil through Clearbrook, MN, then across to Superior, WI, *then back up to Canada*—how does Enbridge justify that this project has a “public benefit” to Minnesotans in which eminent domain is used to take private property? Certainly there is an obvious benefit to *Canadians* who can access their own oil without trampling the rights of private *Canadian* land owners to get it. But what justifies their taking of private property in the state of Minnesota or elsewhere in the U.S.? Are

there any restrictions in place to prohibit the international sales of this oil, when it is transported through private lands?

Additionally, because Enbridge is a “for profit” foreign company, trading on the NYSE as EEP, rather than a non-profit utility cooperative, for example, we do not understand how their profit-making is construed to mean a *public use or purpose* to Minnesotans.

Section 1. [117.012] PREEMPTION; PUBLIC USE OR PURPOSE.

Subd. 2. Requirement of public use or public purpose. Eminent domain may only be used for a public use or public purpose.

Does the phrase “public purpose” include *profits for foreign commercial industries*?

2.) Enforcement of MNPUC Routing Permit Rules

Also, as confirmed by Larry Hartmann, of the MNPUC at the March 4th informational meeting in Clearbrook, MN, was the fact that the extensive list of Rules & Regulations incorporated in the Pipeline Routing Permit are not enforced, and are in fact...not enforceable.

This means that Enbridge’s detailed “Agricultural Mitigation Plan” and “Environmental Mitigation Plan” are merely lengthy suggestions, or “guides” at best. The use of these guides by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission does NOT provide for any enforcement.

As confirmed by the MNPUC, there is no policy in place for enforcement, and there is no procedure in writing to force Enbridge into compliance with these plans. There has never been an independent agency charged with enforcement or oversight of these rules. In effect, this means that all of the so-called “Rules and Regulations” of construction and post-construction repairs would have more value as a coloring book for toddlers.

Landowners need to understand that they should have no expectation of Enbridge’s compliance with these rules, nor any support from the Public Utilities Commission in requiring Enbridge’s compliance with the terms of their own Routing Permit. There are no Fines; there are no Fees; there is no intervention on the project; no injunction from local law enforcement. *There are no consequences whatsoever when Enbridge disobeys the MNPUC Routing Permit “rules.”*

In our previous experiences with Enbridge construction projects, they will choose *expedience* and *budget* over the written “rules and requirements” of the permit. Without any policy in place to guarantee that Enbridge is required to obey these written terms, there is simply no incentive for them to comply.

Enbridge will readily comply with various rules and regulations set up by other state agencies, such as the DNR, or the MPCA, for instance. In fact, Enbridge has used our land outside of the ROW, without our permission, rather than risk a conflict with DNR rules, because the DNR will enforce their rules in or near public waters, and apparently has the power to take action against them.

There is, however, no person or agency in place to police Enbridge on their abuses of private landowners. Any landowner complaints to the MNPUC against the pipeline are referred directly back to Enbridge for their handling. This is something akin to calling the

Police to report a home invasion, and being told you are supposed to “work it out with the burglar.”

In past projects across our land, Enbridge has been required to pay an “Independent Monitor” to evaluate their compliance with construction and post-construction remediation processes. This Independent Monitor also has no authority to change anything that Enbridge does—only to report on it.

Additionally, any independent monitor is aware of who signs their paychecks (Enbridge) so we question whether true *independence* can be guaranteed. Enbridge is also required to pay a fee to each county for a local “inspector” in each county of construction. These “inspectors” appear to have less authority than the independent monitors, and also are unable to do anything to address landowner complaints against Enbridge.

To summarize, the MNPUC is responsible for making the rules—but no agency or individual is in charge of enforcing them.

3.) Legal Redress Fund

In Clearwater County, (ranked as the poorest county in the state) as well as many other northern Minnesota counties, there are landowners who simply do not have the financial means to legally defend their own land and financial interests against a multi-national behemoth like Enbridge. Enbridge has scores of attorneys working for them, and they have demonstrated their willingness to employ these attorneys to simply drag their feet through the court system, rather than address reasonable solutions to landowner complaints. Our best guess regarding two ongoing complaints from the 2009 Alberta Clipper/Southern Lights projects, is that Enbridge has probably spent nearly three times the amount of money on attorney fees than if they had simply put sincere effort into resolving these complaints. Outside of legal circles, this could be called “bullying.”

Regardless of where Enbridge puts the Sandpiper Pipeline, we believe that the MNPUC should require Enbridge—or any other pipeline company-- to set aside an amount of money (for instance, a bond in the amount of \$5,000 per landowner, or \$1,000 per numbered land Tract) that is for use by private land owners to pay for legal expenses in order to sue or mediate for such causes as: breach of contract, non-compliance with either the Agricultural Mitigation Plan or the Environmental Mitigation plan; incomplete restoration of private property to pre-construction condition; unintended construction or restoration damages; significant devaluation of property value or diminished use; and other financial damages that may not be specifically addressed in other documents, nor paid for in pre-construction easement payments.

If the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission can make the claim in their Mission Statement that it “provides a forum for resolving disputes between the public and utilities,” then this would actually provide that forum.

4.) NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard)

It has been interesting to note the many previous public comments from landowners on the Southern alternate route, stating that the pipeline would be much better located on the “northern alternate route” for some of the following paraphrased reasons:

because “that is where they have always gone before...”

because the northern alternate route land is already “debased” by the pipeline...

because it would disturb “those” people on the northern route a lot less than it would disturb us...

because our land is pristine (and apparently there is none of that on the northern alternative route?)

because we have pristine forests and numerous wild mammals on the Southern alternate route (as this is being written from about 20 miles North of the Headwaters of the Mississippi, perhaps we should notify state officials to shut down Itasca State Park, since it apparently doesn’t have any desirable flora and fauna that is only available in Eastern Minnesota?)

because I live on or near an Organic farm. (We also grow Organically on the Northern route.)

because we are on a protected watershed district. (Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes. Our farm is surrounded by 4 of these lakes. The entire state is divided into almost 50 watershed districts, and the aquifers move under all of us.)

because we have worked too hard to make this land our home/farm/business/etc. (Ditto for all of us on the Northern Alternate Route.)

because I fear for my safety (Interestingly, of all the people who have expressed their preference to use the northern alternate route, none has yet expressed any fears for the safety of the residents along *that* route...)

As a landowner on the northern alternate route, we can certainly understand why no one desires any industrial project of this scope going through their private property—but we would also like to clarify that the lands on the southern route are unique only to those people who own them and enjoy them. They are not so particularly pristine as to be listed as one of the World Heritage Parks...or Organic in such a sustainable manner that no one else in the state is able to duplicate elsewhere, or that the river(s) or lake waters are so exceptionally clean that this clarity simply doesn’t exist anywhere else in the world.

As farmers on the northern alternate route, we happen to believe that OUR lands are just as valuable, and just as *pristine* and enjoyed every bit as much for their natural resources, clean water, flora and fauna and agricultural bounty as all the lands that are currently being considered for the Southern Alternate route. The only thing that makes any lands unique to each of us is whether *we own it* or someone else does.

Additionally, many of us on the northern alternate route would agree that we have already given up enough land for Enbridge pipelines. There is a 300 foot wide corridor carved diagonally through our farm for their existing 6 pipelines. This swath of land crosses through our tree farm, our alfalfa field, our pastures and our grain fields and runs 250 feet from our homestead. From our perspective, we believe a “freeway-sized” easement for 6 pipelines are more than plenty. In other words...haven’t we given enough yet?

A final response to the many comments regarding a Minnesota policy of “non-proliferation of utility lines.” If we understand the meaning of the Minnesota non-proliferation clause for utilities correctly, it was intended to cluster large utility facilities and routes (specifically, high voltage overhead transmission lines) together along public access roads whenever possible. We don’t believe the intent of this clause was ever to create one *superhighway of petroleum pipelines* across private property—such as we now have on our land.

In conclusion, we believe that Minnesotans can benefit from additional access to domestic petroleum products, but NOT:

--at the expense of private property owners who lose property value, agricultural value, property use and more because of this project

--if eminent domain is used to seize private property for the transportation of Canadian oil across Minnesota and back up to Canada

--if the petroleum products are simply being shipped through Minnesota on their way to other states and other countries simply to profit Canadian industry

--if the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has no mechanism in place to defend private property owners against violations of the rules of their own Routing Permit

Respectfully submitted,

Keith & Karen Gebhardt
Leonard, MN 56652

March 3, 2014

Kathy and Doug Rasch

43003 191st Ave

Clearbrook, MN 56634

TO:

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager

Energy environmental Review and Analysis

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St Paul, MN 55101

To:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

RE: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Members of the Minnesota Public Utility Commission and Minnesota Department of Commerce,

Hello, we are landowners in Clearwater County along the southern route NDCP(Enbridge) is proposing for their new Sandpiper pipeline. We want to encourage you, the PUC, to evaluate the huge environmental and human impacts of the proposed southern route and consider an alternative route or system to transport the Bakken oil. You know we already have a Minnesota Pipeline Company easement running north to south across our 80 acres. The easement was expanded in 2007. North of our property that expansion cleared all the woodland up to the edge of a good sized wetland. The combined open area now exposed allows west and northwest wind to blow through our farmyard. The NDCP proposal would again increase that open area, cause more drifting, increase our heating bills, make our road more difficult and all in all diminish the livability of our farmyard. This point is a small consideration we know but one side effect among many that many rural Minnesotans would have to endure if this pipeline route permit is given. Adding another pipeline with an entirely separate company right next to the Minnesota Pipeline Company line will also seriously limit landowner's ability to negotiate least impact routes in the future because only one side of each easement could be expanded.

Our objections to the south route are many. To simplify them we will use the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) as a model to illustrate our concerns. Minnesota WCA Rule 8420, Chapter 354 was approved by the MN State legislature in 1991 to regulate construction and other activities to protect the environmental value of wetlands in Minnesota. This is generally considered to be for public benefit. WCA is intended to prevent negative environmental impact, specifically to wetlands, namely "No Net Loss" of wetlands and "avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands". The basic WCA principle is called sequencing. It involves three basic simple steps; avoid, minimize, mitigate, which must be addressed in that order without skipping one step to get to the next. For private landowners it is implemented rather strictly, with little flexibility for construction activities impacting greater than 2,000 – 10,000 sq ft of wetland, depending on specific location and wetland type. NDCP(Enbridge) is a private for-profit company. Shouldn't they be held to the same standards as private citizens?

Back to the three simple steps, the first one being avoidance. Following the shorter Enbridge northern route identified on the attached map and avoiding the southern route will avoid impacts to nearly 700 acres, simply through 48 less miles of pipeline easement. This in itself is a huge reduction in impact. In addition, as the table 2.3.3-1 on page 2-12 of the Sandpiper MN EIR illustrates, the Northern route also crosses less greenfield areas, fewer NWI wetlands (a key factor in the WCA rules), less highly erodible soils, many less acres of prime agricultural land and fewer perennial waterbodies to bore under, all adding up to a marked reduction in environmental impacts by avoiding the southern route. It also means less infrastructure to maintain safely, less miles of pipes to leak and pollute our surface waters, ground water, and soils. While the southern route does apparently cross less State and National forest land, this seems a negligible consideration without any evidence presented of Native Plant Community Inventories, Ecological Assessments or other similar assessments completed to evaluate the quality of the public vs private forest land that would be crossed.

Another option in avoidance is trains. The infrastructure is already in place. Railroad tracks can haul much more than just oil and their safety record (barrel of oil spilled per volume shipped) is better. It is hard to get US data comparing the safety records, but we have Canadian data from Transport Canada that states the rate of spills by rail is .255 spills per cubic meter; by pipeline the rate is .352 spills per cubic meter. A significant difference if that oil is spilled into Minnesota lakes and streams, farmland, forests, and the Upper Mississippi Watershed. This safety record will only improve with Burlington Northern Santa Fe's (BNSF) recent announcement of the purchase of 5,000 new "Next Generation" tanker rail cars, built with safety designs which exceed even recent new safety design standards from 2011, and collaborative efforts between Railroad Companies and NDOT to adopt much stricter safety rules.

In the revised Route Permit Application, section 2.2.3 beginning on page 2-5 discussing the rail option, NDPC states that 2052 rail cars are needed to ship the oil as a pipeline alternative. BNSF's addition of 5,000 new cars will certainly meet that requirement. As for rails consumption of fossil fuels, and its subsequent impact to air quality, no clear comparison of energy used is presented which accounts for Enbridge's daily use, such as the daily airplane patrol of pipeline routes or the fleet of vehicles routinely used in pipeline maintenance. As for disrupted service, pipelines are routinely shut down for "pigging" the lines, checking for weak spots, digging up lines for repair and inspection. Considering Enbridge's spill record of over 800 spills in the last decade, it appears they should spend even more energy and time doing this.

The second step in sequencing is minimizing impact. Under the WCA model this can require private citizens, for public benefit, to modify their planned construction projects to minimize the environmental impacts. Modifications considered to achieve minimizing impacts include taking a shorter route, reducing the footprint of the project, or in some cases, even relocating. In the case of the Sandpiper project, the shorter route is the Northern route. We have already discussed numerous environmental benefits of the northern route. By NDPC's own admission their greatest obstacle with the northern route is tribal land. If NDPC's negotiations with the tribes were as fair as those with the counties, i.e. tax revenues from pipeline, the northern route is still viable. The Minnesota PUC, Department of Commerce or other State agency could help mediate these negotiations?

Environmental impacts could be further minimized by reducing the permanent easement and the temporary work space, which is anything but temporary. In our experience with Minnesota Pipeline Company's last expansion through our property in 2007, they were able to narrow their temporary workspace from 65ft to 45 ft throughout our property. They successfully completed the project within the reduced work space. NDPC wants 70 ft of temporary work space. Why would they need more than the 45 ft Minnesota Pipeline Company needed to complete their line? When Minnesota Pipeline Company expanded adjacent to the easement they already had, they asked for 25 ft additional permanent easement, as they could obviously utilize some of their current easement as work area. NDPC should be able to do the same by following their existing northern easement route. This reduction in easement and work area along the entire pipeline would further minimize environmental impact.

In summary, the greatest avoidance of environmental impact would be to utilize existing railroad infrastructure and not build the pipeline. Recognizing that this is a Routing Permit Application, the best route alternative to reduce environmental impact to prime farmland, greenfield areas, NWI wetlands and permanent water bodies is for NDPC to follow their current easements on the Northern Route.

Of course we understand that WCA does not apply to "public" utilities within the same parameters as it does to private landowners. But it is a model for responsible resource protection. The point is NDPC (Enbridge) shouldn't, as a private company, fall under the umbrage of public utility exception. If we truly want to protect water, wetland, soil, and forest beyond rhetoric, the pipeline, wherever it is built should be built with the greatest effort to protect the environment for all of us. It seems time that government entities like the MN PUC and the Department of Commerce stop being biased and truly help ensure these projects are built with the greatest care. Within that consideration the northern route would be the better choice and we should all work together to make it possible.

Thank you for your time and patience. We would appreciate some feedback from the PUC and Department of Commerce on the concerns and route alternative presented here.

Sincerely,

Doug and Kathy Rasch

43003 191st ave.

Clearbrook, MN 56634

horsehillgdn@gvtel.com

March 3, 2014

Kathy and Doug Rasch

43003 191st Ave

Clearbrook, MN 56634

TO:

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager

Energy environmental Review and Analysis

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St Paul, MN 55101

To:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

RE: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Members of the Minnesota Public Utility Commission and Minnesota Department of Commerce,

Hello, we are landowners in Clearwater County along the southern route NDCP(Enbridge) is proposing for their new Sandpiper pipeline. We want to encourage you, the PUC, to evaluate the huge environmental and human impacts of the proposed southern route and consider an alternative route or system to transport the Bakken oil. You know we already have a Minnesota Pipeline Company easement running north to south across our 80 acres. The easement was expanded in 2007. North of our property that expansion cleared all the woodland up to the edge of a good sized wetland. The combined open area now exposed allows west and northwest wind to blow through our farmyard. The NDCP proposal would again increase that open area, cause more drifting, increase our heating bills, make our road more difficult and all in all diminish the livability of our farmyard. This point is a small consideration we know but one side effect among many that many rural Minnesotans would have to endure if this pipeline route permit is given. Adding another pipeline with an entirely separate company right next to the Minnesota Pipeline Company line will also seriously limit landowner's ability to negotiate least impact routes in the future because only one side of each easement could be expanded.

Our objections to the south route are many. To simplify them we will use the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) as a model to illustrate our concerns. Minnesota WCA Rule 8420, Chapter 354 was approved by the MN State legislature in 1991 to regulate construction and other activities to protect the environmental value of wetlands in Minnesota. This is generally considered to be for public benefit. WCA is intended to prevent negative environmental impact, specifically to wetlands, namely "No Net Loss" of wetlands and "avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands". The basic WCA principle is called sequencing. It involves three basic simple steps; avoid, minimize, mitigate, which must be addressed in that order without skipping one step to get to the next. For private landowners it is implemented rather strictly, with little flexibility for construction activities impacting greater than 2,000 – 10,000 sq ft of wetland, depending on specific location and wetland type. NDCP(Enbridge) is a private for-profit company. Shouldn't they be held to the same standards as private citizens?

Back to the three simple steps, the first one being avoidance. Following the shorter Enbridge northern route identified on the attached map and avoiding the southern route will avoid impacts to nearly 700 acres, simply through 48 less miles of pipeline easement. This in itself is a huge reduction in impact. In addition, as the table 2.3.3-1 on page 2-12 of the Sandpiper MN EIR illustrates, the Northern route also crosses less greenfield areas, fewer NWI wetlands (a key factor in the WCA rules), less highly erodible soils, many less acres of prime agricultural land and fewer perennial waterbodies to bore under, all adding up to a marked reduction in environmental impacts by avoiding the southern route. It also means less infrastructure to maintain safely, less miles of pipes to leak and pollute our surface waters, ground water, and soils. While the southern route does apparently cross less State and National forest land, this seems a negligible consideration without any evidence presented of Native Plant Community Inventories, Ecological Assessments or other similar assessments completed to evaluate the quality of the public vs private forest land that would be crossed.

Another option in avoidance is trains. The infrastructure is already in place. Railroad tracks can haul much more than just oil and their safety record (barrel of oil spilled per volume shipped) is better. It is hard to get US data comparing the safety records, but we have Canadian data from Transport Canada that states the rate of spills by rail is .255 spills per cubic meter; by pipeline the rate is .352 spills per cubic meter. A significant difference if that oil is spilled into Minnesota lakes and streams, farmland, forests, and the Upper Mississippi Watershed. This safety record will only improve with Burlington Northern Santa Fe's (BNSF) recent announcement of the purchase of 5,000 new "Next Generation" tanker rail cars, built with safety designs which exceed even recent new safety design standards from 2011, and collaborative efforts between Railroad Companies and NDOT to adopt much stricter safety rules.

In the revised Route Permit Application, section 2.2.3 beginning on page 2-5 discussing the rail option, NDPC states that 2052 rail cars are needed to ship the oil as a pipeline alternative. BNSF's addition of 5,000 new cars will certainly meet that requirement. As for rails consumption of fossil fuels, and its subsequent impact to air quality, no clear comparison of energy used is presented which accounts for Enbridge's daily use, such as the daily airplane patrol of pipeline routes or the fleet of vehicles routinely used in pipeline maintenance. As for disrupted service, pipelines are routinely shut down for "pigging" the lines, checking for weak spots, digging up lines for repair and inspection. Considering Enbridge's spill record of over 800 spills in the last decade, it appears they should spend even more energy and time doing this.

The second step in sequencing is minimizing impact. Under the WCA model this can require private citizens, for public benefit, to modify their planned construction projects to minimize the environmental impacts. Modifications considered to achieve minimizing impacts include taking a shorter route, reducing the footprint of the project, or in some cases, even relocating. In the case of the Sandpiper project, the shorter route is the Northern route. We have already discussed numerous environmental benefits of the northern route. By NDPC's own admission their greatest obstacle with the northern route is tribal land. If NDPC's negotiations with the tribes were as fair as those with the counties, i.e. tax revenues from pipeline, the northern route is still viable. The Minnesota PUC, Department of Commerce or other State agency could help mediate these negotiations?

Environmental impacts could be further minimized by reducing the permanent easement and the temporary work space, which is anything but temporary. In our experience with Minnesota Pipeline Company's last expansion through our property in 2007, they were able to narrow their temporary workspace from 65ft to 45 ft throughout our property. They successfully completed the project within the reduced work space. NDPC wants 70 ft of temporary work space. Why would they need more than the 45 ft Minnesota Pipeline Company needed to complete their line? When Minnesota Pipeline Company expanded adjacent to the easement they already had, they asked for 25 ft additional permanent easement, as they could obviously utilize some of their current easement as work area. NDPC should be able to do the same by following their existing northern easement route. This reduction in easement and work area along the entire pipeline would further minimize environmental impact.

In summary, the greatest avoidance of environmental impact would be to utilize existing railroad infrastructure and not build the pipeline. Recognizing that this is a Routing Permit Application, the best route alternative to reduce environmental impact to prime farmland, greenfield areas, NWI wetlands and permanent water bodies is for NDPC to follow their current easements on the Northern Route.

Of course we understand that WCA does not apply to "public" utilities within the same parameters as it does to private landowners. But it is a model for responsible resource protection. The point is NDPC (Enbridge) shouldn't, as a private company, fall under the umbrage of public utility exception. If we truly want to protect water, wetland, soil, and forest beyond rhetoric, the pipeline, wherever it is built should be built with the greatest effort to protect the environment for all of us. It seems time that government entities like the MN PUC and the Department of Commerce stop being biased and truly help ensure these projects are built with the greatest care. Within that consideration the northern route would be the better choice and we should all work together to make it possible.

Thank you for your time and patience. We would appreciate some feedback from the PUC and Department of Commerce on the concerns and route alternative presented here.

Sincerely,

Doug and Kathy Rasch

43003 191st ave.

Clearbrook, MN 56634

horsehillgdn@gvtel.com



Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: R Vavrosky <use.wear.make.do@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 7:51 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket 13-474
Attachments: Solomon Spectrum Farm Doc..docx; Zoe's Spectrum Farm Doc..docx

Please accept and post the attached two comments on the 13-474 docket.

Thank you.

SPECTRUM FARM

Solomon Parks
10241 McCamus Road
Brookston, MN 55711

4/2/14

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

I do not think that a pipeline should be put through Spectrum Farm. The space required for the pipelines to go through would damage the trees, soil, and the ecosystem. With the pipeline, there are occasional leaks/spills, so, the Farm could lose their organic certification. It would be hard for them to get it back. It would be best to avoid organic farms, and other agricultural land, when putting in a new pipeline.

It would be best to follow existing crude oil pipelines, to minimize damage to land and farms. We do not want to damage the small amount of farmland that we have in North Minnesota.

Thank you for taking time to read and consider this.

Sincerely,

Solomon Parks

Zoe Parks
10241 McCamus Rd.
Brookston, MN 55711

4/2/14

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Northern Minnesotan farmland is very precious, and many farmers work hard to nurture and preserve their land. Putting pipelines through these farms destroys forests, because large sections of trees are cut down, which fragments the forests. Also, when the pipeline is put through an agricultural field, often the restoration process is not performed properly, and the valuable topsoil doesn't end up on top. Instead, boulders cover the field, making it impossible to be cultivated.

Organic farms are at risk from the pipelines. They often lose their organic certification on hay, maple syrup, etc. Also, oil leaks could destroy soil, and the soil may suffer ecosystem damage. Whenever it is possible, the pipeline routes should avoid these organic farms.

Co-locating the new pipeline in the existing corridor minimizes the damage to farms and the environment. The land around the existing corridor is already disturbed, and the forests that it goes through are already fragmented. It is better to disturb and fragment the land in as few places as possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. I deeply appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Zoe Parks

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:34 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474
Attachments: wetzel letter.jpg

Attached please find a scanned image of a letter in support of an alternate route from one of my former interns, Katharine Wetzel.

--

Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.
Palisade MN 56469
(218) 232-4189

www.chengwatanafarm.com

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:32 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474
Attachments: Penny Letter.docx

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Tracy Smetana 121 7th Place E., Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us

Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)

Dear Ms Smetana,

I am writing to urge the MNPUC to deny the Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline route request. Enbridge has a shorter and more direct route to the Superior in place. Any expansion in capacity, if allowed, should follow the existing route. The "southern route" crosses prime farm and grazing land including an organic farm that I patronize, Chengwatana Farm in Palisade, MN.

Regardless of the Commission's viewpoint on climate change, preservation of arable land and water resources should be a priority for all public serving bodies. All predictions, with or without warming, point to increasing food and water shortages across the word. Oil pipelines are incompatible with both.

The rate of safety-related incidents on federally regulated pipelines in Canada doubled over the last decade, while the rate of reported spills and leaks was up threefold, according Reuters. The total number of incidents, everything from spills to fires, swelled from 45 in 2000 to 142 in 2011, CBC reported October 28, 2013 citing data from the National Energy Board (NEB) obtained through access-to-information requests.

Please note: 2013: A massive Tesoro Corp pipeline spill destroyed 7.3 acres of farmland in North Dakota. 2013: Exxon's Mayflower pipeline spilled 7,000 barrels in suburban Mayflower, Arkansas, forcing resident from homes. 2012: Enbridge Athabasca pipeline dumped 1400 barrels in the Peace River in Northeast Alberta. 2012: Plains Midstream Canada pipeline dumped 126,000 gallons into the Red Deer River in Alberta which then fouled the Gleniffer Reservoir, a main drinking water source for the region. 2011: Exxon pipeline beneath Montana's Yellowstone River released 63,000 gallons of oil into the river. 2010: Enbridge's Michigan pipeline spilled 20,000 barrels of crude into the Kalmazoo River. 2010 & 2009: Enbridge was fined for illegal discharges into wetlands and rivers in Minnesota. 2010: Chevron pipeline rupture and spills up to 21,000 gallons in to a creek in Utah.

Chengwatana Farm is in located in the flood plain of the Willow River. Chengwatana farm produces organically and sustainable grown produce, meat, and valued-added products. Demand for sustainable organic products is growing and serves to increase food security. It takes many years to produce an organic farm: farmers much clear their land of accumulated pesticides and rebuild the soil. Compaction of the soil by machinery, pipelines, and related infrastructure and equipment damages soil structure, killing the life and productivity of this carefully tended soil. As was evidenced in North Dakota, it takes only hours to destroy something that a family has spent years building. The biological diversity of this wetland-rich area of Aitkin County will be irreparably changed by this development. The history of the oil industry speaks for itself: spills are inevitable and not taken seriously.

Please deny the proposal and consider other alternatives that do not threaten critical food and water supplies.

Sincerely,

Christine Penney 9305
Congdon Blvd Duluth,
MN 55804

--
Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.
Palisade MN 56469
(218) 232-4189

www.chengwatanafarm.com

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Tracy Smetana 121 7th Place E., Suite 350 St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us

Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

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Please deny the proposal and consider other alternatives that do not threaten critical food and water supplies.

Sincerely,

Christine Penney 9305
Congdon Blvd Duluth, MN
55804

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:29 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474
Attachments: johnson letter.docx

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Tracy Smetana

121 7th Place E., Suite 350

St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us
Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)

Dear Ms Smetana,

I am writing on behalf of Lynn Sue Mizner, and Chengwatana Farm in Palisade, Minnesota. Chengwatana Farm is on the proposed “southern route” for the Sandpiper pipeline. Chengwatana Farm is located in the flood plain of the Willow River. Lynn farms organically to provide clean, healthy food to her community. She has devoted her life to sustainable natural resource management and farming, and has invested countless hours and resources in the improvement of the soil, water, pastures, and croplands of Chengwatana Farm. She raises a rare breed of sheep for conservation purposes, as well as grassfed lamb, beef, and poultry; and vegetables for sale to the surrounding community.

My family enjoys healthy lamb, poultry, eggs, and vegetables from Lynn’s farm. We value the opportunity to be part of this sustainable organic business that is working to increase the food security of our community and region. This proposed pipeline will without a doubt cause long-term harm to the soil and immediate surrounding wetlands, ponds, streams, and other ecological resources of Chengwatana Farm. I doubt this damage could be remedied for practical purposes.

The damage could include disruption and damage to soil structure and soil biology. The whole premise of organic farming is based upon the health of the soil’s biology. Compaction of the soil by machinery, pipelines, and related infrastructure and equipment will damage soil structure, killing the life and productivity of this carefully tended soil. Damage will include contamination of land by various materials involved in the installation and operation of the pipeline. The soil where this pipeline traverses Aitkin County farmland will be

contaminated; by the equipment used to install the pipeline and its support infrastructure, and/or by leaks in the pipeline. *History shows that the only question is when leaks will occur, not whether they will.*

The biological diversity of this wetland-rich area of Aitkin County will be irreparably changed by this development. Pastures, wetlands, ponds, and streams will suffer. Minnesota Statute 116D.02 subdivision 2 states that it is the State's responsibility to

“(10) preserve important existing natural habitats of rare and endangered species of plants, wildlife, and fish, and provide for the wise use of our remaining areas of natural habitation, including necessary protective measures where appropriate; and

(18) prohibit, where appropriate, flood plain development in urban and rural areas.”

Please do not allow this pipeline to cross Chengwatana Farm when viable alternatives exist.

Sincerely,

Craig and Jessica Johnson

43410 308th Pl., Palisade MN 56469

--

Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.
Palisade MN 56469
(218) 232-4189

www.chengwatanafarm.com

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Tracy Smetana
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us
Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474
Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)

Dear Ms Smetana,

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Please do not allow this pipeline to cross Chengwatana Farm when viable alternatives exist.

Sincerely,

Craig and Jessica Johnson
43410 308th Pl., Palisade MN 56469

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:24 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474
Attachments: Ellering letter.docx

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Tracy Smetana
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us

Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)

Dear Ms. Smetana,

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As an organic farming supporter, and natural resources professional, I am concerned about the negative impacts to Chengwatana Farm and other farms like it throughout the region. Of particular concern is the imminent damage to the soil and immediate surrounding wetlands, ponds, streams, and other ecological resources of Chengwatana Farm. I doubt this damage could be remedied for practical purposes.

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Please do not allow this pipeline to cross Chengwatana Farm when viable alternatives exist.

Sincerely,
Amber Ellering

1484 Goodrich AVE

Saint Paul, MN 55105

amberellering@gmail.com

--

Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.
Palisade MN 56469
(218) 232-4189

www.chengwatanafarm.com

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Tracy Smetana
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us
Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

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Please do not allow this pipeline to cross Chengwatana Farm when viable alternatives exist.

Sincerely,
Amber Ellering
1484 Goodrich AVE
Saint Paul, MN 55105
amberellering@gmail.com

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:19 PM
To: staff, cao (PUC)
Subject: Testimony from March13, 2014 meeting in McGregor
Attachments: Lynn Mizner testimony.docx

Dear Ms Smetana. I gave public testimony at the subject meeting. I didn't realize I could send in my testimony as well. Please include the attached written testimony in the record. Thanks for the great work you have been doing to allow the public to comment.

--
Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.
Palisade MN 56469
(218) 232-4189

www.chengwatanafarm.com

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Tracy Smetana
121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Re: Enbridge Sandpiper Pipeline proposed route(s)
PUC Docket Number 13-474

Dear Ms Smetana,

I am speaking as a farmer whose farm would be cut in half by the proposed Sandpiper pipeline route through Palisade, Minnesota; the proposed "southern route" for the Sandpiper pipeline. Chengwatana Farm is located in the flood plain of the Willow River. I farm organically to provide clean, healthy food to my community. I have devoted my personal and professional life to sustainable natural resource management including farming, and have invested countless hours and resources in the improvement of the soil, water, pastures, and croplands of Chengwatana Farm. I raise Black Welsh Mountain sheep, a breed listed as "threatened" by the Livestock Breeds Conservancy. I raise these rare sheep for conservation purposes, as well as raising crossbred sheep to produce 100% grassfed lamb. I also raise 100% grassfed beef, pastured poultry; and vegetables for sale to the surrounding community. All my farming practices are 100% organic and consistent with the National Organic Program. My farming mission is to educate the next generation of organic farmers and to provide affordable healthy food to members of my community. My holistic management philosophy includes rotational grazing that would be disrupted by the building of a pipeline across my land. The proposed route crosses existing fences, drainage ditches, wetlands, pastures, and tree plantings.

My customers enjoy healthy lamb, poultry, eggs, and vegetables from Chengwatana farm. They value the opportunity to be part of this sustainable organic business that is working to increase the food security of our community and region. This proposed pipeline will without a doubt cause long-term harm to the soil and immediate surrounding wetlands, ponds, streams, and other ecological resources of Chengwatana Farm. I doubt this damage could be remedied for practical purposes. I host interns and volunteers every year in my home. They travel from all over the United States and Europe to learn sustainable living practices and organic growing and livestock husbandry practices. This is a service I provide not only to these young people, but to the future of family farming in the United States.

The damage caused by the bisection of my farm by the proposed pipeline could include disruption and damage to soil structure and soil biology. The whole premise of organic farming is based upon the health of the soil's biology. Compaction of the soil by machinery, pipelines, and related infrastructure and equipment will damage soil structure, killing the life and productivity of this carefully tended soil. Damage will include contamination of land by various materials involved in the installation and operation of the pipeline. The soil where this pipeline traverses Aitkin County farmland will be contaminated; by the equipment used to install the pipeline and its support infrastructure, and/or by leaks in the pipeline. ***History shows that the only question is when leaks will occur, not whether they will. This is supported by reporting from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.***

The biological diversity of this wetland-rich area of Aitkin County will be irreparably changed by this development. Pastures, wetlands, ponds, and streams will suffer. Minnesota Statute 116D.02 subdivision 2 states that it is the State's responsibility to

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(18) prohibit, where appropriate, flood plain development in urban and rural areas.”

Please do not allow this pipeline to cross Chengwatana Farm when viable alternatives exist.

I propose an alternate route that would veer south and southeast from the intersection of U.S. Highway 169 and CSAH 3 west of Palisade. Enbridge engineers have indicated to me that private landowners on that route would be willing to host a pipeline project because it would not interfere with their use of their land. That is definitely not the case for the Mizner family and Chengwatana farm.

Sincerely,

Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Pl.,
Palisade MN 56469

(218) 232-4189

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Lynn Sue Mizner <lynnsuem@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 5:17 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Landowner comments on Sandpiper Route PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474
Attachments: Willow R. Route Alt_2.pdf; Mizner Route comments final.pdf

Attached please find my comments as a PDF file; the map of my preferred route is also attached.

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O Milepost
 • Willow River Route Alternative
 January 31, 2014 Filed Route
 0 750 1,500 Feet

Figure 6
North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC
Sandpiper Pipeline Project
Willow River Route Alternative

ENBRIDGE

Lynn Sue Mizner
Chengwatana Farm
47513 334th Place, Palisade MN 56469-2264

April 2, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN -55101-2147

Sent VIA Email: PublicComments.PUC@state.mn.us
Re: Docket number PL6668/PL-13-474

Dear Mr. Haar,
I farm according to the National Organic Protocol and am working toward organic certification for the 100% grassfed lamb and beef, pastured poultry, free-range eggs, and vegetables that I produce. I am submitting these comments as a farmer whose farm would be cut in half by the proposed Sandpiper pipeline route through Palisade, Minnesota; the proposed "southern route" for the Sandpiper pipeline. Chengwatana Farm is located in the flood plain of the Willow River. Less than 1 mile from my farmhouse, the Willow joins the Mississippi River. People in my town call it "Palisade on the Mississippi". We are very concerned about the effect the proposed pipeline through the farm will have on water quality when the inevitable leaks and spills associated with pipeline construction and operation occur.

I participate in the Conservation Security Program and the Forest Stewardship Council certification program, both of which give recognition to the conservation principles I apply to my farming and forest management activities.

I am going on record as preferring that Enbridge use the existing northern route if they can demonstrate the need for these additional pipelines. If the State of Minnesota determines that an alternative to the northern route is needed, then the attached "Willow River Alternate Route" submitted by Enbridge is the one I prefer. I will demonstrate the reasons why that route is better for my community.

The Applicant believes that the project will have little more than a temporary impact on the productivity of agricultural sites. This may or may not be true for traditional farmers that depend on petroleum based herbicides and fertilizers. The same cannot be said for organic farmers that depend on the inherent soil fertility of their topsoil, and the microorganisms that inhabit the natural soil structures to maintain the fertility. They also depend on the surrounding ecosystem to provide pollinators, and predators that help control pests. These

relationships are forever disrupted when a major project such as ROW construction through their farm destroys that delicate balance. This damage has been well-documented in the MinnCan case (PUC docket #05-2003) from 2006, including in the expert testimony provided by Dr. Deborah Allen in support of the Gardens of Eagan farm.

Since that time, conventional farmers have also started to recognize that the soil health and microbial activity that is essential to provide proper growing conditions in organic systems is also beneficial to their own farming systems. Soil health has also become a major focus of mainstream programs by the USDA, NRCS and University of MN Extension because of its role in making farming systems more resilient to flood, drought, insect damage, and disease suppression. Farmers are encouraged through mainstream ag programs such as the USDA Conservation Security Program to develop long-term crop rotation systems that involve a variety of crop mixes including annuals and perennials. Construction activities cause significant medium-term damage to these crop rotations. Significant long-term damage is also likely since this route will likely be chosen for future pipelines, such as the Line 3 replacement program, and ongoing maintenance and repair operations frequently require periodic construction activity that disrupts the normal course of agricultural activity. For example, a number of farmers along the current mainline route in Wrenshall, Minnesota have had some type of pipeline construction, mitigation, repair, or maintenance activities on their property each year for nearly 10 years. This represents serious disruption to these agricultural systems. Northern Minnesota is in short supply of Class I prime farmland, and any damage to new parcels that have not previously seen pipeline construction should be taken very seriously. Prime and organic farmland are valuable natural resources that must be protected. Damage to these resources cannot be compensated for monetarily, and there is no way to damage it in one place and replace it elsewhere.

Finally, agricultural production, particularly organic farming and particularly in sensitive areas such as northern Minnesota, is heavily reliant on a network of other farmers and supportive institutions, businesses and consumers to be successful. The most successful hubs of organic production are formed when a critical mass of these factors come together to promote each other and the wider goals of food and community. The Brainer/Aitkin/Staples area near my farm is one of those burgeoning hubs of activity, with new farmers supported by a network of existing farmers, retail businesses, non-profits, restaurants and local governments that all value the principles of local food and the community and connection that develops when a critical mass of rural residents is able to make a living from their own land. Because there is limited supply of land suitable to this type of production, this critical mass is endangered by new pipeline proposals, particularly those that seek routes that do not follow existing pipelines. It is not simply the agricultural system that is degraded, but also the social fabric of rural

communities when proposals like that of the applicant are introduced with no regard to the impacts specific to each area and the special qualities of each property.

Integral to my farm management philosophy is the use of holistic management and high-intensity managed rotational grazing to improve the fertility of the soil and reduce the impacts of farming on the landscape. Imagine how inconceivable it is to me to be doing daily pasture rotations of livestock around a swath of denuded land that bisects my pasture with a pipeline corridor. I am surrounded by wild lands, forest and wetlands. Predators of every kind have their homes there. The only way I can successfully raise lambs and poultry on pasture is to maintain Livestock Guardian dogs. These partners in my farm enterprise roam freely around the 200 acres they guard as their territory. They are alert to every intruder from skunks to timber wolves, coyotes, and cougars. Imagine the impact on their ability to successfully guard “their” livestock with the frequent and unannounced intrusion of Enbridge land staff and construction staff to do construction, inspection, and maintenance. I am very much concerned about the safety of my guard dogs as they are likely to try to chase these folks away from their territory during the daytime, which is when they normally rest.

My farm and pastures are made up of several classes of wetland, riparian areas, and wet forest. There are several artesian wells within a mile of my farm, but most people in the area depend on surficial aquifers for water for daily life. These aquifers are underlain by bedrock which would make it difficult to put pipeline in the ground at a depth consistent with best practices. Also, the hydric soils on my farm are extremely sensitive to compaction by even the lightest machinery. Because I have a B.S. degree in aquatic biology, I am more aware of these issues than most people. I can see tracks for years when there is the slightest unwise incursion with machinery or vehicles across my fields. I understand the profound impact this has on drainage and soil biology. This is one of the reasons I follow no-till and holistic and organic practices. The presence of wetlands, ground water, and the river is before me all the time.

My farm is the only farm on the Aitkin County Sandpiper route that produces organic food for the local community. I have worked very hard and invested all my time and resources in Chengwatana Farm to build it into a resource that supplies my family, friends, community, and the broader communities of Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties with healthy, local food products. I am a supplier farmer for the Sprout Food Hub in Brainerd, and participate on a Local Foods Committee that is seeking to get locally produced food into the schools and institutions of Aitkin County. I sincerely ask that you make certain that this pipeline doesn't go through my farm, to the detriment of my community.

Chengwatana Farm also hosts interns and volunteers every year. These people are so hungry for information about sustainable living and organic farming. Many of them go on to find agricultural employment after they have gained some basic skills here. This kind of training is

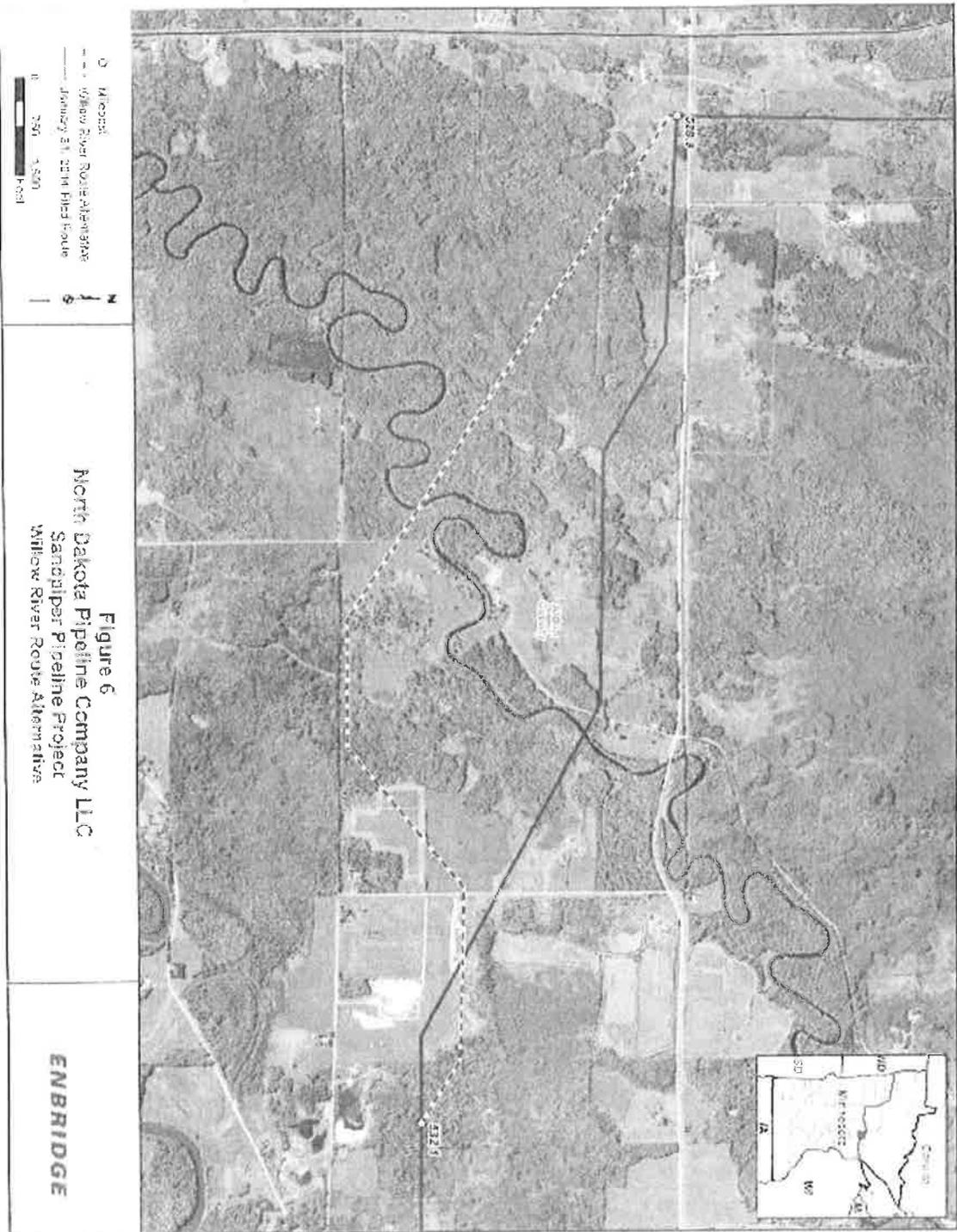
creating skills, knowledge, and disciplines that are transferable to many other jobs, and to healthy lifestyles in general. The loss of this opportunity for local young people would be a loss to our whole community.

The Willow River Alternate Route (pictured below) goes to the west of my farm and would not impact my ability to farm or the integrity of my pastures and tree plantings. All the private landowners along the alternate route have either agreed to sign, or have already signed contracts with Enbridge to allow easements (Barry Simonson, Enbridge major projects engineer, personal communication). The alternate route also avoids the 90-degree turn in the existing Sandpiper proposed route; I understand that this kind of turn in the pipeline predisposes it to problems during operation.

Yours in health,

Lynn Sue Mizner

(Map on next page)



Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Patricia Clure <pclure@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 3:15 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: RE: Docket #13-474
Attachments: April 2 (1).docx

Please add my attached comments to your Docket #13-474.

Thank you.

Patricia Clure

4/2/2014