

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: CenturyLink Customer <djphillips@q.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 7:56 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: PUC Docket No: PI-6668/PPL-13-474
Attachments: EnbridgeComment Phillips.rtf

Please accept the following comment.
Please contact us with questions.
Thank you.

March 31, 2014

State of Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147
PublicComments.PUC@State.MN.US

PUC Docket No: PL-6668/PPL-13-474
Re: Proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Route

Dear Commissioners:

It is our understanding that the company Enbridge (aka North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC) is seeking permission for a new pipeline route (Sandpiper) through an area that includes a large part of the watershed for Big Sandy Lake, which, in turn connects to the Mississippi River. The pro-posed Sandpiper pipeline would run between Big Sandy Lake and the town of McGregor, underneath a wetlands area and under the Prairie River.

The possibility of a leak or a “release” as the pipeline company refers to it (Section 8.4.2 of Enbridge Minnesota Environmental Information Report, January 2014), whether through the construction process or during operation of the pipeline, in the Big Sandy Lake watershed would be disastrous to the small community of McGregor, to the residents of Big Sandy Lake area and to the downstream Mississippi communities. The watershed is highly fragile, already having succumbed to months of flooding in spring and summer of 2012. Big Sandy Lake is a recreational lake, which recently achieved Star Lake status. Its area resorts, small businesses, and campgrounds bring much needed tourist dollars into this otherwise poor area. Given the recent oil spills in North Dakota (www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/north-dakota-oil-spill), this kind of occurrence is not out of the question. Recovering from such a spill would take years because of damage to the economy and the pristine environmental image of Big Sandy Lake.

In the meantime, many local residents would be forced into foreclosure and small businesses, like many local families, already teetering on the edge of financial viability would be forced to close. The lasting effect would be enormous, and given the unwillingness of other oil companies to take real and complete responsibility for spills in terms of mitigating long-term environmental and economic effects, we have little faith that this company would do better here.

Enbridge already has several pipelines in place about 40 or so miles north of this area (the Northern Route) and they do have the ability, as well as the infrastructure already existing, to put the new pipeline in the same grouping. It appears the big hurdle for the Northern Route addition is tribal land avoidance. Yet the cost in environmental damage for the southern route build may far outweigh the impact of the work needed to re-route. They "prefer" to run a new pipeline through our watershed. We imagine that it might be more convenient and/or less expensive for Enbridge to run the proposed new line, but at what cost to the purity of the lake and to the residents of McGregor, Big Sandy Lake and downstream communities? At what cost to us, our families, our friends, and our tight-knit community if there is a leak? The cost would be devastating and irreparable.

This area has a very delicate ecology and economy and we request that the Minnesota Public Utilities refuse this permit as it is too risky to the quality of our lake and to our community. Enbridge cannot be allowed to decide they don't want to use the northern corridor because it's not as easy for them as a new one through our flood plain.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Kind Regards,
Joni & Dale Phillips

612-720-5235
djphillips@q.com

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Becky Christensen <rebecca.m.christensen@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2014 5:01 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Letter for Docket #13-474
Attachments: Enbridge letter.doc

To Whom it May Concern:

Please consider the attached letter in your consideration of Enbridge's Sandpiper Pipeline route.

Thank you,
Rebecca Christensen

Rebecca Christensen
3909 Hollyhock Circle North
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443

March 30, 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:

In all the time I have spent visiting family and friends throughout this great state of Minnesota, I consider my trips to my aunt and uncle's organic farm in Northern Minnesota to be some of my most memorable. Since hearing of the plans for the new Sandpiper pipeline route, I have been terribly concerned about what it will do not only to my family's farm, but to so many others like it that are threatened by this plan.

Enbridge has made some strides to remedy the original new route so that it no longer runs through the farm on which I have learned so much, but nonproliferation is the best way to avoid destroying our valuable natural resources. The current route still runs through too many of these wonderful farms. To destroy any part of these farms, especially those that are Certified Organic, would be devastating to a way of life that helps people provide for their families, their communities, and the state.

This isn't just about money. This is about keeping sustainable farms sustainable and keeping the Northland area of Minnesota the wonderful, diverse, beautiful place that it is.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Christensen

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: tomong@roadrunner.com
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 12:29 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket Number 13-474

Dear sirs

I am opposed to Enbridge Pipeline LLC's proposed southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline. Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through an area that will not jeopardize the Mississippi headwaters and the lakes, streams, and rivers of Hubbard County and northern Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

Tom Ong
825 Gretna Green Way, Apt. F
Los Angeles, CA 90095

William Thompson (Tom) Ong, author of the Kate Conway trilogy, has a new novel available through Amazon. THE VIEW FROM WALDEN PARK is a thriller based on the love between an architect and a movie star turned princess.

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: patricia schoephoerster <paschoep@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 12:19 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Sandpiper Route Permit 13-474

Honorable Commissioners

I am writing in none support of the oil pipe line being purpose by Embrigde company.

Since the report came out this week about the warming of our plant, I think new technology is more important then pipelines. Even our cars are changing. I don't think our planted can handle to much more and we need to think of what we are leaving for future generations.

If you won't listen to the earth and I hope you do, then build your pipeline over existing lines. The earth still won't like it but at lease you won't be destroying more of it.

Thank you

PATRICIA SCHOEPHOERSTER

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: linda bauer <drlindabauer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 11:18 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: 13-474

Honorable Commissioners,

Please keep the Sandpiper line with in the existing utility corridors and by pass productive farm land. We Buy local food and do not want our farm source contaminated.

Thank you,
Dr. Linda Bauer
Sent from my iPad

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Mark Herwig <mefsherwig@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 9:56 AM
To: staff, cao (PUC)
Subject: comment on proposed sandpiper pipeline route

I couldn't figure out how to submit this on your website, so please enter this into the comments:

I'm a landowner on the proposed Sandpiper pipeline route (Mark Herwig, 44 acres on co rd. 4 6 miles west of Mahtowa.....I live at 1958 Florence St., White Bear Lake, MN, 55110).

I think the PUC should adhere to the 'non proliferation of corridors' policy and direct Enbridge to built its pipelines along existing pipeline routes or on the Soo Line railroad route.....there's no need to destroy pristine wildlife habitat and productive farms for pipelines.....since Enbridge really plans to build many more pipelines along the Sandpiper route, the PUC must insist they stick to existing pipe or rail routes.....here's some more comment below (I also see the building trades unions and Minnesota chamber of commerce agreed with me in an editorial in the Star Tribune about 'non proliferation' of utility routes.....just because I have a powerline easement on my land doesn't mean its an invitation for a much more dangerous and destructive oil pipelinesee comment below on this issue:

The preferred route and route alternatives with the exception of the Northern Route make extensive use of electrical transmission line rights of way as they traverse the area east of Clearbrook. We contend that while this is preferable to crossing greenfield areas, the impact of power line construction and maintenance is substantially different than that of crude oil pipelines. The environmental impact of constructing poles and towers spaced hundreds of feet apart clearly differs from the massive soil disturbance of the 120' wide workspace required with pipeline construction, particularly on wetland and agricultural soils. Landowners on power lines do not have to contend with the possibility of a leak that could make their land permanently toxic or contaminate their drinking water. On the other hand, power lines cause more problems with sightlines and visual pollution than buried pipelines. One must conclude that while ROW sharing is certainly preferable to greenfield development, to be consistent with the principal of non-proliferation and the rationale behind it, pipelines should be routed alongside other pipelines to the greatest extent possible. The applicant makes no distinction between different types of ROW sharing. This is unacceptable because there are clear differences in the environmental and socioeconomic impacts between different types of rights of way. The PUC and DOC should compel NDPC to provide detailed information on types of right of way shared by each route proposal and the differing impacts should be fully examined as part of their application. Furthermore, the PUC and DOC should request analysis from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the impacts expected from pipeline vs. power line development on agricultural land.

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Peggy Ladd <laddmr@frontiernet.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 7:02 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: 13-474

Honorable Commissioners,

I am very concerned about the possibility of the Sandpiper Pipeline going through productive farmland in the Palisade area (Chengwatana Farms), the many wetlands, rivers, and lakes in our area. I am especially concerned that they propose to go under the Willow River and the Mississippi River in our area. This sounds like the possibility for a future disaster! Once any damage is done, its too late. Please make an environmentally friendly decision and insist that they stick to existing utility corridors. We are all depending of you!

Respectfully,
Margaret Ladd
Palisade, Minnesota

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: CS Colvin <CSC@linuxwaves.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 03, 2014 12:10 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket number 13-474

From: Catherine Colvin, 2020 14th Street, Cloquet, MN 55720,
218-879-9400

3 April 2014

To: 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:

We need you now, to help us protect our farmlands and waters. Pipeline companies have no reason to care about what is important to Minnesota farmers and residents who rely upon them.

There has been substantial temporary and permanent damage to many, many communities throughout the United States due to incidents which can render our lands and waters from barely usable to potentially unusable. Our natural resources are irreplaceable.

Recovering from cancer makes organic foods and good water imperative for me to thrive. Many people benefit from our local organic farms. Organic farms will risk loss of certification, soil destruction and our eco systems may suffer damage which may as well be considered permanent in our lifetime.

Natural farmlands and forests provide valuable and essential ecosystems. They provide critical wildlife habitat and protect the health of impaired rivers such as the Nemadji River in the Lake Superior Watershed.

Routes should avoid organic farms, indeed all farms not already impacted. Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of non-proliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights. There is no valid necessity for new routes.

Has not the greed of mega corporations taken enough away from us? Help us keep what remains intact. We need your support right now.

Respectfully,

Catherine S. Colvin

P.S. Please accept my apology for sending this to the wrong email address on the first try.

Get your FREE, LinuxWaves.com Email Now! --> <http://www.LinuxWaves.com> Join Linux Discussions! --> <http://Community.LinuxWaves.com>

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Kaari K <kaarikuusi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 11:23 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Letter Regarding Docket Number 13-473/13-474

Docket number is 13-473 for the Certificate of Need and 13-474 for the Route Permit

Kaari Kuusisto
1183 Sherren St W
Roseville, MN 55113
April 2, 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

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

Honorable Commissioners:

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

I am writing to express my deep concern that the "preferred southern route" is at very much odds with your PUC selection criteria. The land being considered provides food, water, recreation and wildlife habitat. A pipeline through this area would irreparably damage existing and planned future land use for the natural environment – including the air, water, plants, animals, and recreation opportunities for citizens. Economies within the route are currently sustainable economies, with jobs in agriculture, forest and wetland management, and recreation, and are filled by people who live and raise families there. Jobs for the proposed pipeline installation be filled by workers who come from afar and move on to the next location. We should be minimizing any and all disturbances to our precious forests, wetlands and water as natural resources and features. Clear cutting 120 foot wide right-of-ways and excavating trenches sixty feet wide and six feet deep to lay pipe goes against sustainable practice. Management plans should be for sustainable land management, nurturing soil, forests and wetlands as living organisms with life-producing power, instead of maintaining pipelines and waiting for toxic spills. Sustainable environmental activity means preserving long term growth, and minimizing disturbance. A pipeline along an environmental route will cause irreparable harm to aquifers and natural areas, and clear cutting in perpetuity.

Instead of opening a new right of way through private land, why not use sustainable right-of-way, including existing rights-of-way, or including replacing existing obsolete line, adding line on an existing right-of-way, or using a former transportation right-of-way, including rail lines? Surely these show a more reasonable and prudent alternative. Further, I request a full Environmental Impact Statement.

For these reasons, if the Sandpiper Pipeline is deemed necessary, Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline through an area that will not jeopardize a vulnerable aquifer, the Mississippi Headwaters and the lakes, streams, and rivers of Hubbard County and all the Lake Country of Northern Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Kaari Kuusisto

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: John S <jcsterle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 8:38 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: RE: North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC, PL-6668/PPL-13-474

April 2, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
12 – 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Dr. Haar:

(1) My family has a home and land in Blackhoof Township in Carlton County on the original proposed southern route east of Interstate 35W. It is unclear whether this route is still being considered, but my family's land has no existing utility corridors on it. In November of 2013, NDPC proposed a route that would cut through woods and wetlands near our family home, including where we planted Norway Pines along the north end of our largest wetland. This water drains into the Blackhoof River and to the Nemadji watershed into Lake Superior. This originally proposed route would negate the management plan of the Nemadji watershed by the Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The Carlton County Commissioners have recognized our area as an important resource for organic farming because of its unique soils, biodiversity, and the weather moderation from Lake Superior. The County Board has requested that NDPC follow existing utility corridors and avoid this original proposed route through the Carlton County organic farming district. When you consider non-proliferation, supporting the management plan by Carlton SWCD and the recommendation by Carlton County Commissioners, the original proposed route in eastern Carlton County should be dropped.

(2) I oppose the preferred Southern route for the proposed Sandpiper pipeline going through mostly private lands. This would negatively affect landowners, like my family, in their effort to continue to manage, develop, bequeath and if necessary resell their property. For many private landowners, their land and home are their biggest financial investment and a large part of their financial security. A new pipeline corridor would greatly reduce the value of these families' financial investments, while also potentially impacting the personal, emotional connection they have to the place they live. It would burden them with the stress from loss of existing woodlands, addition of unknown traffic across their land, addition of invasive plant species, threats of future additional pipelines and risks from spills, from polluted groundwater and to their overall health. If you decide this proposal is necessary, NDPC should be required to place this proposed Sandpiper pipeline in their existing Northern Mainline corridor. New development impacts are more damaging and disruptive than impacts on areas with an existing pipeline infrastructure.

In summary, the original proposed route through Carlton County east of Interstate 35W and the organic farming district should be dropped. New oil pipelines need to be located with existing oil pipelines, which is consistent with the principle of non-proliferation, avoidance of losses to families' lifetime investments and to minimize damage to organic farms which are dependent on diverse forest ecosystems and healthy watersheds. We need to protect our wetlands, rivers and lakes from the effects of deforestation, erosion and pollution by rejecting the preferred Southern route. The environmental impact report needs to consider this potential impact is much

greater on the environment and private property when constructing a new oil pipeline corridor on human rural settlement rather than using an existing pipeline corridor. If the PUC decides the proposed Sandpiper pipeline is necessary, please require NDPC use their existing Northern Mainline corridor where these impacts would be minimized.

Sincerely,

John Sterle
2902 South Horseshoe Drive SW
Wyoming, MI 49418

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: marie321@q.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 6:48 PM
To: www.PublicComments.puc@state.mn.us
Cc: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: pipeline

Hello Honorable Commissioner:

My name is Marie Nyblom. My husband and I have lived here in Mahtowa MN for 17 plus years. We live right along the Minnesota power line and our yard where our boys play is right along that area. Our front door is about 200 feet from where the Sandpiper Pipeline is proposing to put the pipeline. Our land here is our little piece of heaven with a trout stream just on the other side of the house, beautiful wooded area, seasonal birds, and much wild life. Its one thing to live with a power line but totally another thing living with a pipeline. Our boys play football, baseball, basketball and just run and wrestle with each other and with their friends in this area close to the proposed site. We ask you to please consider following the existing pipeline area. There is no reason we can't contain where we put a pipeline, it actually makes more sense to put it along the existing pipeline route. Save our Minnesota lands and keep the pipelines in contained existing areas. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Marie Nyblom

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: mkjmm2550 <mkjmm2550@frontier.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 6:43 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: docket number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners,
We have concerns about the Sandpiper pipeline project being in the best interest of Minnesota. It appears that a foreign company, Enbridge (Canadian), may have an over sea's partner (China), but is not releasing this information because of trade secrets. Canadian's are condemning American's property. Enbridge, and the unnamed partner, are trying to gain access to the port in Superior, Wisconsin. If this happens, it will cause an increase in the price of crude oil in Minnesota. If this pipeline is built and the oil is shipped overseas, we believe the property owners along the pipeline route should be paid rent. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Schoephoerster & Kim Marinac
Mound, Minnesota

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: jdugan@emich.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 10:55 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: comment on Sandpiper route,docket 13-474

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

Re: Sandpiper Pipeline Routing Permit 13-474
Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing in regards to Enbridge's proposed preferred Southern route for their new sandpiper pipeline (routing permit 13-474). Enbridge has stated that this preferred route would follow (mostly) existing utility corridors. However, much of this existing utility corridor is for electric transmission lines. My points below are concerned with the fundamental difference between electric utility line corridors and pipeline corridors:

Pipelines can leak into sensitive wetlands and soil and contaminate aquifers and agricultural land forever. These spills cannot be fully remediated.

Electric transmission lines can cross over wetlands and streams without digging into the streambed and wetland.

A pipeline corridor proposal contains no "buy the farm" provision: According to MN statute 216.E.12, if a landowner on a proposed powerline corridor decides he doesn't want to live with such a liability, there is a provision to make the utility buy his land at fair market value. No such protection exists for the landowner on a proposed pipeline corridor.

Pipeline construction involves digging up and overturning soil layers along its entire route with resulting soil structure damage, erosion and runoff into wetlands, and invasive plant species introduction. Soil between powerline poles is not as greatly impacted.

Inspection for problems is completely different for powerline and pipeline corridors. Powerlines are above ground and visible. Pipelines are underground and leaks, supposedly detected by distant operators, have been shown to continue for some time before detection. There are many examples of this problem with Enbridge pipelines. Any real inspection for leaks depends on the private landowner happening to observe leaks on his land.

According to Minnesota statute and state supreme court opinion, the PUC is charged to consider "non-proliferation" of any new utility corridor in its decisions. Enbridge's preferred Southern route would not follow the spirit of this non-proliferation criteria. Any new pipeline should follow an already established pipeline corridor. In this case that would mean the Northern route. Enbridge has stated that they have problems with the Northern route. As a citizen I don't have the resources that a corporation has and cannot finance an engineering and environmental study of the Northern route. But such studies were done for previous lines on the Northern route. The Northern route should not be removed from consideration by the PUC just because Enbridge says they have problems with it. I'm confident that the PUC will reach a decision that is in the best interests of all the citizens of Minnesota and not allow a new pipeline along Enbridge's proposed preferred Southern route. Thank you.

Betsy Dugan 909 County Road 4 Wrenshall, MN 55797

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: jdugan@emich.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 10:23 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Enbridge Pipeline Route Docket Number 13-474

FROM: J. Sanford Dugan, PhD

909 County Road 4

Wrenshall, Minnesota 55797-9013

March 13, 2014

TO: Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Enbridge Pipeline Route, Docket Number 13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

I am a retired university professor. My wife of 43 years and I live in Carlton County and eat locally produced food. The county's woods and wetlands help protect the Lake Superior watershed, a source of water we drink; they also provide us with recreation. North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC's Sandpiper would open a new conduit to carry oil across the county to the port of Superior, Wisconsin, for storage and export. No major refineries to serve Minnesota's energy needs are planned. A route modification proposed last fall promises to avoid certain properties, but NDPC declines to remove the original route from consideration.

The installation and subsequent perpetual maintenance that Sandpiper would require would irreparably damage farmland that has been carefully nurtured, would clearcut developed forests, and would put wetlands at risk. Degraded farmland cannot be restored to its full potential; an easement swath permanently damages a forest; and wetlands face the threat of catastrophe – witness the Kalamazoo River disaster.

You are no doubt aware that local sourcing of food is a national phenomenon. One indicator of that is the increasing importance of regional food hubs, which manage the distribution of food products between growers and users like markets, restaurants, and institutions. The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems 2013 national survey found, “Over 95% of food hubs are experiencing an increasing demand for their products and services.” (<http://kresge.org/sites/default/files/2013-national-food-hub-survey.pdf>)

New food hubs have been recently established in Minnesota, one right in Duluth.

There was a time when almost all food for the Twin Ports was produced locally, and the trend is now back in that direction. The Duluth City Council is on record recently supporting a “vibrant, dynamic, and sustainable local food system.” (http://www.duluthnewstribune.com/event/article/id/241570/publisher_ID/36/)

Now, many pipelines that have been in the ground for decades already cross northern Minnesota. The much publicized discovery of oil and gas reserves in North Dakota and Alberta does not justify a proliferation of new transport pathways across undisturbed land in our state. Routes that have already been negotiated should be the preferred solution. Engineering ingenuity and technological advances can find a way to remove aging conduits and put in ones that will meet alleged needs.

What we have seen in the last eight months is a large corporate entity attempting to force individual landowners and small businesses to cooperate in a plan of new pipeline proliferation most of whose benefits would go to corporate interests outside the state. Reasonable stewardship of the land requires consideration of long-term issues like how can this land best serve the needs of Minnesotans. Such planning can occur through established representative institutions. Until that happens, the PUC can best meet citizen interests by restricting pipelines to corridors that already exist.

Very truly,

J. Sanford Dugan

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Sandy Sterle <ssterle777@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 02, 2014 1:56 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: PPL-13-474 Route Comments

March 31, 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: PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Dr. Haar:

This letter is commenting on the human impacts as to be applied on route selection for Pipeline Route Permit by North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC (NDPC/Enbridge) for the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota (EIR – 11/8/2013 and Revised EIR – 1/31/14).

In the Revised EIR in section 4.2.1 on Land Use, there is a table showing land ownership on the Preferred Southern Route as 9.2% State, 15.4% County and 75.5% Private lands. The alternative route comparison tables show state lands, but there are no statistics for comparing the County and private land ownership to different alternative routes. Figures including private and County lands may be partially included in other categories in the route alternative tables, but ***there is no transparent comparison of County and Private land ownership across route alternatives***. Land ownership patterns in north central Minnesota need to be analyzed as distributed into county, state, federal and tribal lands vs. private property owners. It seems the proposed Southern route does not match these ownership patterns. Instead, 75.5% of the route is private land where NDPC can use eminent domain to quickly acquire a right-of-way. These are lands where private citizens would not likely have the expertise to identify or authority to enforce the best construction, safety, and management

practices for pipelines carrying hazardous materials. The private landowner's only recourse in disputes is through litigation afterwards. ***The Southern route should not be preferred just to meet NDPC's desire for a quick-take, to avoid expert scrutiny, and to choose landowners who have the least legal recourse.***

My husband did a search in the Duluth area (largest city in the Northland) for lawyers with experience to represent landowners in negotiations. He found very few, who were not working for the pipeline industry already. This results in private landowners having very limited access to local legal resources, and then, private landowners will most likely be under-represented in negotiations. Because of this shortage of available experienced local counsel, this would leave private landowners vulnerable to being overpowered in negotiations. There is a concern that route selection has been based in part on legal disadvantage, which would result in less compensation to the private landowner and cheaper ROW acquisition for NDPC. ***The Southern Route should not be preferred based on cheaper ROW acquisition, but instead this legal disparity should be considered a financial burden and impact to private landowners.***

For most families, their home and land are their ***largest lifetime investment***, one that takes the better part of their lifetime to establish, or one that has been handed down through generations. The economic impact of a new pipeline corridor, especially on land, which has no utility corridor, would have a significant negative impact on the value of both their home and land as a whole. A local resident in Blackhoof Township, who has worked as a realtor, reported it has been harder recently to sell homes and property on or near a pipeline. ***For NDPC to request to develop a route through 75.5% private land, where owners have spent a lifetime or possibly generations to acquire, just so NDPC can save on the cost of ROW acquisition, seems like an unjustifiable burden on private landowners rights.*** Especially, when NDPC would in only a few short years get a return in profits from the development of this proposed pipeline. A one-time payment to the private landowner for only the 50-foot easement does not adequately compensate for the physical and emotional investment of a lifetime of work.

The human impact of a new ROW is not only economic, but it also has health and social impacts from adding a hazardous industrial site across their property. In the Revised EIR in Table 4.3.5-1, it shows there will be 168 residences within 500 feet and 21 within 50 feet (if not removed) from the new proposed pipeline corridor. These families will be left with this burden for as long as they own their land, each wondering: is their drinking water is safe; will their pets or farm animals be safe; will they be able to afford insurance for their home with a pipeline of explosive Bakken crude nearby; as organic farmers or resort owners, will they lose their livelihood; who is motoring around their land unannounced; how will they stop ATV and snowmobile trespass; how do they limit the spread of invasive species; how can they protect their family if there is a spill; could they afford to sell at a loss; and will they develop health consequences from stress or pollution from an oil release or ROW maintenance chemicals? These health and social human impacts need to be included in the EIR, especially since the greatest land-use is private ownership.

On many private lands without existing ROW's, NDPC locates the proposed route through the middle of the property. This creates an artificial border that will limit or eliminate further development of their property. Because most people build their home and structures closer to the middle of their property, this leads to the greatest impact on the private landowner's safety, greatest impact on the value of their home, greatest

sacrifice to their land's aesthetics, and greatest limits to managing and developing their property. These are impacts that must be included in the EIR, and instead, ***the least impact route should be found and chosen.***

When reading the EIR, what strikes me most is how concealed is the impact on the landowner. In the media and at meetings, it is like ***the landowner is considered collateral damage to NDPC*** – an object of nuisance, which can just be paid off or politically disempowered. When I say landowner, I am not only talking just about private landowners, but also anyone who is responsible to protect the waters and land on to which NDPC is proposing the Sandpiper route.

How you bring to awareness and quantify what is concealed is through transparent, detailed and cumulative impacts documented in the EIR. But, the EIR is only the plan, and there is little evidence that this will be followed without randomly examining ROW easement contracts, considering previous construction inspection reports and citations, and considering other plans announced, but not included in the application. For example, in the Revised EIR in 4.3.1 in the last paragraph, it states “Forested areas on the temporary right-of-way and in additional temporary workspaces will be restored to allow the natural reestablishment of forest cover”. In a recent contract, NDPC has a clause of “the perpetual right to use and occupy such of Grantor’s land adjacent to the Right-of-Way”... The whole, or a significant portion of the temporary space effectively will become permanent right-of-way, not as the Revised EIR states of allowing the temporary workspace to be restored to forest cover. And, Enbridge announced on March 5, 2014 as written in the Duluth News Tribune that the Line 3 upgrade could follow the Sandpiper line, so they clearly have plans to expand this new proposed corridor. These give us clues to what is concealed on how ***the real impact on the landowner will be much greater than is described in the current Revised EIR.*** The EIR must give a transparent, detailed and cumulative analysis of the human economic, social and health impacts from proliferating a new pipeline corridor through Minnesota.

Please recognize that all of us who are giving you comments in opposition to the Preferred Southern Route are trying to protect Minnesota’s pristine environment, to protect a sustainable livelihood, and to protect the health of our families by drawing attention to the ongoing and real threat of a second continuous hazardous industrial site through rural Minnesota. We are not collateral damage. In this letter, I am trying to reveal how the Preferred Southern Route is (by hiding the detail of how it impacts the landowner) crafted more in the interests of NDPC expansion, rather than considering the criteria of what route has least impact and is best for the people who live in our state.

With all these human impacts, it seems clear that the existing Northern Mainline corridor needs to be more clearly analyzed and seriously considered in the Revised EIR.

And, NDPC needs to clearly justify by analyzing least impact criteria as compared to the existing Northern Mainline corridor, why the private landowner should have the greatest burden with 75.5% of the Preferred Southern Route being located on their lands. Without this, the Preferred Southern Route should be rejected.

I greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sandy Sterle

2676 County Road 104

Barnum, MN 55707

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Samantha Cook <cooksam23@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 7:45 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket 13-473 Certificate of Need, 13-474 Route Permit

Samantha Cook
22717 Angler Drive
Menahga, Mn. 56464
April 1, 2014

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

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

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opposition to the plans for an Enbridge Pipeline (North Dakota Pipeline Company) LLC's southern route for the Sandpiper Pipeline.

I have seen the maps of the pipeline's route. It travels through arguably one of the most beautiful and bountiful parts of the state. Not only is this area known for its relatively untouched rivers and wildlife areas, but it is also covered with farming and recreational areas. The lakes and rivers attract hundreds of thousands of tourists every year. The farms feed millions of people. The natural areas are home to untold numbers of fish and wildlife. These things are all dependent on clean waterways. The pipeline will undoubtedly cause economic as well as environmental hardship, and this is an area that is already struggling.

I find it impossible to believe that if some time were taken and some more thought put into the location of the pipeline, a much better and safer alternative can be found. The construction of this pipeline, not to mention the horrific effects of a malfunction after it is built, will have very far reaching impacts for many generations. Oil spills don't go away, and it would be wise to be mindful of this.

If the Sandpiper Pipeline is deemed necessary, then I feel that the Public Utilities Commission should be required at the very least to provide a full Environmental Impact Statement. I strongly believe that Enbridge should have to route their pipeline through an area that will not jeopardize the current rivers and lakes of Hubbard County and northern Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Samantha Cook

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Bonnie Jostock <arniejostock@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 10:33 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket #13-474

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Sandpiper Endbridge Plan. I am concerned that this route would have major impact on the lakes, rivers, and landscape. This route carries a high potential for long term damage that far outweighs any benefit of this project. I strongly urge you to reconsider this plan for the good of many generations to come that might not have the chance to cherish these resources. Bonnie Jostock

Sent from my iPad

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Bonnie Jostock <arniejostock@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 10:25 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Document #13-474

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Sandpiper route as I consider this route to be a very real threat to the waterway and landscape in the proposed pipeline route. The potential for long term damage to forests, lakes and rivers far outweigh any benefit of this proposal. I want my voice heard and urge you to listen. Dr. Arnold Jostock Sent from my iPad

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Joe Fraser <jfraser@rainresources.com>
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 6:45 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Request for Environmental Impact Statement - Docket Number 13-473 Certificate of Need, 13-474 Route Permit

**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 / PPL-13-474

Honorable Commissioners:

Due to what is not enough analysis, review, and accountability if there are problems, I am opposed to the Enbridge Pipeline proposed Southern Route project moving forward as defined today.

While not against the concepts of the pipeline, I do not feel enough has been done by Enbridge or the PUC to ensure success in this endeavor. I also feel that potential problems and failures with this project are being analyzed and that any pain caused by such problems will be born by local residents and Minnesota taxpayers.

The Headwaters area of Minnesota is an important natural resources area for our state and our country with many historic areas. I do not trust that Enbridge is doing enough to make sure to protect this area, and I also do not believe current state laws and processes are requiring enough of Enbridge to ensure this project would be done successfully and maintained correctly.

The least Minnesota residents and taxpayers should expect is a thorough Environmental Impact Statement. I also would like to see more information on how Enbridge would/will deal with problems that may arise. They do not have a good track record in other parts of the country and this is our only chance to have them step up before the project is done. Once approval may be granted, it is too late for us to do what is best for our state and taxpayers.

My concern is that Enbridge will send lawyers instead of environmental experts to clean up any problems. Minnesotans will pay the large and long-lasting price for any mistakes made by Enbridge if we move too hastily.

Construction jobs are very tempting and are welcomed to the area. However if this project is done poorly with a high failure rate, future tourism jobs and land values will be impacted very negatively, making this economic situation less appealing.

Please demand as much review and accountability up front before granting approval for such a potentially dangerous and long-lasting problem project. Or better yet, please consider other routes that will not impact an area of such important natural resources.

Thank you so much for your consideration of these issues.

Best regards,

*Joe Fraser
Residence owner
21616 Duck Lake Drive
Park Rapids, MN
218-732-5502*

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Sandy Sterle <sssterle777@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2014 11:32 PM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Comment for Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

March 30, 2014

Dr. Burl Haar, Executive Secretary

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147

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

RE: PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Dr. Haar:

This letter is commenting on route selection with respect to the Application for Pipeline Routing Permit by North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC (NDPC/Enbridge) for the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota (EIR - 11/8/2013 and Revised EIR - 1/31/14).

My husband and I own four 40 acres parcels (SW of SW, SE of SW, NE of SW and NW of SE) in Section 3 of Blackhoof Township (T47, R17) in Carlton County, Minnesota located on map 119 of 128 between marker 588 and 589 from EIR dated 11/8/2013. Our property is shaped roughly like an "S". We settled and have raised a family since 1981. We chose this land because of its *significant distance away from* utility ROW's, trains, freeways and industrial development. We live in a community of lands tended with conservation mixed with growing organic farming development. We purchased the remainder of the mineral rights on our land to protect from mining development. We have governed the use of our land with the intention of conservation, forest restoration, and stewardship. Constructing a new pipeline corridor on our property would as our State Representative, Mike Sundin, wrote on 10/18/13 "not only *contradicts the principle of nonproliferation*, it is a breach of trust with the landowners who chose their land specifically because it had no existing pipeline." It

would *change our community into contiguous acres of an ongoing industrial site* with likely hazardous chemical pollution into our soils and water. A new pipeline corridor is not compatible with conservation, forest restoration and stewardship.

Our land is along the original proposed Southern Route confusingly named in the Revised EIR as the Carlton County Route Alternative. For sake of clarity, I will call this instead the *original route segment* through eastern Carlton County or the *Organic Farming District segment* east of Interstate 35W. This original route segment overall would have at least these impacts of: cutting the corridor through maple trees in organic production of maple syrup, fragmentation and loss of mature forest ecosystems, disturbing highly productive soils necessary for organic farming, cutting through a significant privately owned white pine stand, disturbing a variety of natural types of wetlands and turning them into wet grasses, adding erosion of soils into the Nemadji Watershed, crossing the historically recognized Old Military Road, destroying habitat necessary to nesting of a “near threatened” bird, opening a corridor for more ATV and snowmobile trespass, and introducing invasive species to native habitat.

Let us first look at the impact on human settlement. The new pipeline corridor (ROW) is proposed through the box of electrical service for our property. They propose to clear the mature trees along the first part of our private road. The proposed shape of the new corridor is through our property in an upside down “V” directed through an old foundation from the original homestead in NE of SW. We would lose significant value of our property especially with the proposed ROW cutting through woods and wetlands in the middle of our property and close to our home. We also would be at risk of polluted drinking water, especially since there is no way to transverse our land without impacting wetlands and creeks. Thus, this proposed ROW also puts at risk the health of our neighbors to the south and everyone else living downstream on the Blackhoof River from the consequences of a spill and herbicide use. It is unclear how this new proposed ROW could affect the cost of our ability to insure our home with significant amounts of highly volatile Bakken oil flowing with this and future pipelines expanding the corridor closer and closer to where we live – as witnessed in other parts of the state and county. We would also lose control of our land, considering a recent NDPC contract that demands “a right to assign and mortgage this Agreement and the easement herein granted in whole or part as to all or any portion of the rights accruing hereunder”, and the “perpetual right of ingress and egress across Grantor’s lands to and from the Right-of-Way, using existing roads, routes, and paths”. Our private road is the only upland way to reach into deeper parts of our property. And, we live on a narrow top of a hill. So, if NDPC gains a new ROW on our property, then our privacy will be lost as they continue to drive their equipment down our private road and behind our house. In addition, there will be ongoing noise when NDPC uses aerial monitoring. When a helicopter flies overhead, we can hear and feel the vibration even in the below ground portion of our home. Helicopters overhead would become more frequent instead of rare. This new proposed pipeline corridor would turn our property from private into publicly accessed land, and create an artificial barrier through the middle of our property. Any future plans we may have for the northern and eastern parts of our property would no longer be available. It is not an understatement to say a new pipeline corridor on our property would *destroy our current and future way of life*.

By aligning the proposed ROW in the middle of our property, landowners east of us will have this proposed ROW just beyond their back yard and it is proposed through a private septic system of the owner east of County Road 103. *By choosing to transverse through the middle of properties, it creates the maximum negative economic impacts on privately owned property* and structures. The private lands chosen for the proposed ROW in our area are pristine and do not have existing utility rights-of-way. Choosing this original route

segment does not meet the long standing Minnesota Policy of non-proliferation, especially when there are other viable routes along existing rights-of-way. The Carlton County Commissioners negotiated with Enbridge for an alternate route through eastern Carlton County, which does not divert from, but continues along the electrical power ROW east of marker 580 until it meets Enbridge's Northern Mainline corridor north of Chub Lake, and then follows the mainline into Wisconsin. NDPC's states on page 2-23 of their Revised EIR, that this negotiated route has been "incorporated into NDPC's current preferred route". Due to Minnesota's non-proliferation policy, the original route segment through eastern Carlton County should be dropped from consideration.

In NDPC's analysis of the original route segment on page 2-23 of the Revised EIR, it states that even though it is 1.4 miles shorter than the current preferred route, the original route segment significantly adds "increased construction footprints in Greenfield areas" and "increased number of tributaries to cold water trout streams". This is especially true on our property. The proposed ROW transits a very diverse ecological mix of uplands and wetland types, as the result of changes in elevation and topography. Along the proposed ROW are slopes on our land that quickly drop from 1100 feet to 1050 feet, and there is a narrow tract that separates two wetlands, each at different elevations. Most wetlands on our property clearly drain into the Blackhoof River.

Looking at the NWI map, our property has the following interconnected wetland types: 8 (Bog), 7 (Wooded Swamps), 5 (Open Water), and 2 (Inland Fresh Meadow). The wetland west of our house by visual inspection is more of a type 3 wetland. We also have a type 6 wetland (kettle) that receives water from a broad-based seasonal wooded wetland (ash swamp) located in SW of SW. The proposed ROW would cut through the ash swamp and indirectly impact the type 6 wetland. There is also an intermittent waterbody flowing through NE of SW that the proposed ROW would cross, which floods after rains and has two times from 1982 until the present carried water overflowing from Hay Lake. This along with two other perennial creeks, these drain into a large continuous wetland made up of types 7, 2 & 5 on our property that extends the full length from North to South in SE of SW continuing into adjacent property to the south and finally into the Blackhoof River. The proposed ROW would cross the wetlands types 8, 7 and 3 ***destroying the ecological diversity and turning the wetlands with mature trees and shrubs into wet sedge.***

More specifically, the flow from the west under County Road 104 into SW of SW is initially into a type 8 or bog wetland. This wetland is poised 20 feet in elevation above the lower type 3 wetland by a consistently dry, but narrow separation between the upper and lower wetlands. The NWI map does not show this without boots on the ground inspection. NDPC proposes the new ROW through this narrow separation, which is much narrower than what is needed for the proposed ROW and workspace. Thus, it seems inconceivable, ***without building a significant dam that the water would not divert*** into the lower wetland leading to flooding surrounding brushy edges and woodlands. Looking at the costs of construction through our property with diverse elevations and requirements for wetland construction, our land is not a good choice for a new pipeline corridor.

The proposed ROW construction would cut the trees and shrubs that anchor the slopes, wetland edges, and creek banks, leading to significant erosion; especially, considering the significant slopes on our land and the upland sandy loam soils. The Carlton County Soil and Water District has an active project to protect mature and increase forest cover to reduce the effects of erosion into the Nemadji Watershed, including the Blackhoof

River. The ***proposed ROW construction negates the Carlton SWCD efforts*** and would perpetually add more soil sediment into the Blackhoof River through erosion from our land, because the ROW construction and maintenance areas would be permanent. See letter on edockets from Carlton SWCD received November 18, 2013. This proposed ROW construction would include permanently removing Norway pine trees we planted 25 years ago that protect the northern edge of the continuous large wetland, and a mix of pines we planted to protect a slope further north. Thus, this ***proposed ROW would also negate our family's efforts to reestablish woods in old fields and minimize erosion into wetlands.***

Let's look at specifically how this proposed ROW would affect the flora and fauna that live on our property. Our wetland habitats support duck, geese, cranes, herons, redwing blackbirds, kingfishers, along with beavers, muskrats, mink, otters, etc. Some turtles depend use our gravel road for egg incubation. Our land and forests support owls, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, turkeys, bears, deer, coyotes, bobcats, rabbits, etc. We have lots of milkweed the monarch butterflies love. Our area is at the tip of the Lake Superior Flyway. We have seen and heard migratory birds find safe haven in our wetlands and on our property. The proposed ROW would destroy a 3.5+ foot diameter white pine along with many mature tamarack, balsam, and spruce in and between the type 7 swamp north of our home and the continuous large wetland. We have found white pine trees to be especially hard to grow on our land because blister rust benefits from moisture. In the upland areas, there are aspen, plus large mature trees, such as: bur & red oaks, maples, basswood, birch, Norway pine, etc. that would be cleared with construction. These unique trees and the variety of wetlands types and creeks cannot be moved or compensated for; especially when you consider how they also feed and shelter bees, butterflies, birds, animals, reptiles, etc... The ***proposed ROW would destroy wild food sources***, such as: woodland flowers, cherry trees, high bush cranberry, crab apples, hazel nuts, oaks producing acorns, and hawthorn along with aspen and a variety of mushrooms. See Larry Weber's letter on edockets, our neighbor to the north, on the statistics of wildlife on our adjacent lands, presented at the Carlton County Informational Meeting on 3-13-14. He is a naturalist and indicated what is unspoiled about our lands is the ***unusual lack of invasive species*** that the proposed ROW construction would introduce in a corridor bisecting this pristine ecology.

Also, specifically identified in SW of SW ***within the proposed ROW is habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler***. These birds have been observed on our land by experienced birders, and are considered "near threatened". Especially in Minnesota where ½ the global population breeds, it is critical to protect their nesting sites. Edge growth is not conducive for these warblers. They need tall snags for singing perches and aspen for nesting just like the habitat on our SW of SW property. The NRCS/USDA has identified our land by offering us an invitation to facilitate more habitat restoration of the Golden-winged Warbler. The MN Statute 116D.02 clearly states the policy to promote and "maintain conditions under which human beings and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of the state's people". This is what my husband and I have been striving for and what is naturally happening in our community with the growing number of organic farmers who depend on biologically diverse ecosystems. A new pipeline corridor is not conducive to this policy. Please drop from consideration the Organic Farming District segment to protect its unique natural environment and affirm the conscientious citizens working to live in harmony with nature.

And, as described in 1.2.1 of the Revised EIR, ***wetland crossing requires additional temporary workspaces*** of 200 feet by 75 feet for each wetland added to the full construction right-of-way. This would greatly impact much of our 160 acres because of the number of wetlands. And, considering a recent NDPC contract which demands a "perpetual right to use and occupy" this adjacent workspace, this means the ROW plus the additional

workspace will be permanent right-of-way going through the middle of our land opening these uplands and wetlands to trespass by ATV and snowmobile operators, invasive species, erosion, and herbicides. In the past we have had to discourage ATV trespass by planting trees and directly talking to these vehicle owners. But, opening up such a large corridor through our land with its high and low elevations only would attract this misuse and leave our slope and soils at risk for more erosion. This proposed corridor would also fragment the woods and wipeout the smaller wooded areas sprinkled between the wetlands.

Please consider the sacrifice that is being forced upon the private landowners by NDPC. \$10 a lineal foot does not come close to covering the loss of control over private property; loss of privacy; damage to wetlands; loss of habitat for the animals, birds, reptiles, etc.; loss of the precious mature forest ecosystem; significant loss in the lifetime investment of a home; and loss of livelihood for those who depend on the pristine nature of their property to prosper like, organic farmers and resort owners. And, \$10 a lineal foot does not take into consideration the stumpage value of mature trees, perpetual loss of additional workspaces, ongoing taxes on the ROW, and the ongoing burden of potential spills, herbicide use and the resulting health hazards.

The proposed ROW would cross five drainages: a seasonal flow from the ash swamp in SW of SW, two perennial creeks in SE of SW, an intermittent flooded waterbody described above in NE of SW, and an intermittent flow in NW of SE. None of these show up on the NWI map and at least the 2 perennial creeks should be considered in the Table 2.3.3-5 on page 2-24 of the Revised EIR. We own the north ½ of the large continuous wetland, which drains into the Blackhoof River. The significance of this description is to illustrate ***there is no way to transit our property without having the largest impact on these wetlands***, because they are a fan-shape continuous interconnected system, merging into the large continuous wetland. In a meeting sponsored by the League of Women Voters in Park Rapids, the DNR representative discussed recommendations on reducing impact to wetlands. The best solution was to avoid them altogether; and the second was to minimize the impact by placing a ROW at the outlet or narrowest point of the wetland, which is not on our property.

The obvious conclusion is our property is not suitable for this proposed ROW. The water is supplied from the west, north and east from adjacent properties into wetlands and drainages that converge at the widest section of the large continuous wetland that flows into the Blackhoof River. The only way to go around this system is to avoid our property, to avoid the adjacent properties feeding into this system, and to avoid the property to the south on to which the Blackhoof River runs. The proposed route cannot go farther north because west of County Road 104 is Bear Lake. This is why I cannot realistically propose a route specifically around our land. Instead, I am requesting to drop the original route segment through eastern Carlton County, because the proposed ROW would expose this whole wetland system to the maximum of impact along with the risk of pollution from herbicide use and an oil spill, which would flow into the Blackhoof River, down the Nemadji Watershed into Lake Superior.

In summary, it seems like what Nathan Kestner, MNDNR Ecologist warns in his letter in edockets dated August 14, 2013 on page 10 is true of our property.

“Considerable wetlands occur throughout the project corridor. The alteration most commonly encountered with pipelines is – through disturbance and an inability to re-establish pre-existing wetland vegetation – a conversion in wetland type to a deeper water habitat. As an area becomes wetter, the first effects on vegetation of increased saturation include the invasion of species more characteristic of marshes. Many times these are invasive species such as hybrid cattail that form monotypic stand with limited habitats value. The result can be significant modification or loss of ecological function and biodiversity.”

And, later on page 11, he describes how to rank a site’s significance in biodiversity. Although, I am not an ecologist, in what he is describing I have given examples above. Please follow his recommendation to avoid direct impacts on wetlands. ***Please drop from consideration the original route segment through eastern Carlton County.***

Thank you.

Sandy Sterle

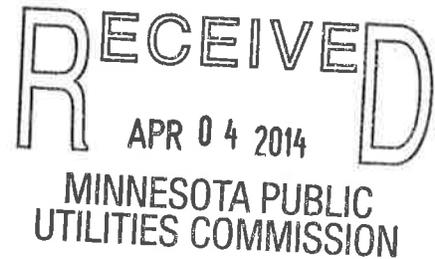
2676 County Road 104

Barnum, MN 55707

Dale Nielsen
7225 Valley Place #1
Crystal, MN 55427-2179

April 1, 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:

The citizens of Minnesota face a bleak future when pipelines take precedence over natural resources and human rights. Taxpayers are again forced to subsidize corporate profits disguised as progress and development.

The Sandpiper pipeline has the undeniable potential to permanently contaminate and utterly destroy the adjacent soil, water, and habitat. This loss of land, resources, and livelihoods would be irredeemable.

Therefore, the non-proliferation policy which locates new pipelines alongside existing routes is the only reasonable alternative to hedge against inevitable catastrophic failure. Perhaps posterity will not be unduly harsh in their judgment, given the dismal history of mankind on environmental issues.

Dale Nielsen

March 31, 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: PUC Docket Number PL-6668/PPL-13-474

Dear Dr. Haar:

This letter is commenting on the human impacts as to be applied on route selection for Pipeline Route Permit by North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC (NDPC/Enbridge) for the proposed Sandpiper Pipeline Project in Minnesota (EIR – 11/8/2013 and Revised EIR – 1/31/14).

In the Revised EIR in section 4.2.1 on Land Use, there is a table showing land ownership on the Preferred Southern Route as 9.2% State, 15.4% County and 75.5% Private lands. The alternative route comparison tables show state lands, but there are no statistics for comparing the County and private land ownership to different alternative routes. Figures including private and County lands may be partially included in other categories in the route alternative tables, but **there is no transparent comparison of County and Private land ownership across route alternatives.** Land ownership patterns in north central Minnesota need to be analyzed as distributed into county, state, federal and tribal lands vs. private property owners. It seems the proposed Southern route does not match these ownership patterns. Instead, 75.5% of the route is private land where NDPC can use eminent domain to quickly acquire a right-of-way. These are lands where private citizens would not likely have the expertise to identify or authority to enforce the best construction, safety, and management practices for pipelines carrying hazardous materials. The private landowner's only recourse in disputes is through litigation afterwards. **The Southern route should not be preferred just to meet NDPC's desire for a quick-take, to avoid expert scrutiny, and to choose landowners who have the least legal recourse.**

My husband did a search in the Duluth area (largest city in the Northland) for lawyers with experience to represent landowners in negotiations. He found very few, who were not working for the pipeline industry already. This results in private landowners having very limited access to local legal resources, and then, private landowners will most likely be under-represented in negotiations. Because of this shortage of available experienced local counsel, this would leave private landowners vulnerable to being overpowered in negotiations. There is a concern that route selection has been based in part on legal disadvantage, which would result in less compensation to the private landowner and cheaper ROW acquisition for NDPC. **The Southern Route should not be preferred based on cheaper ROW acquisition, but instead this legal disparity should be considered a financial burden and impact to private landowners.**

For most families, their home and land are their **largest lifetime investment**, one that takes the better part of their lifetime to establish, or one that has been handed down through generations. The economic impact of a new pipeline corridor, especially on land, which has no utility corridor, would have a significant negative impact on the value of both their home and land as a whole. A

local resident in Blackhoof Township, who has worked as a realtor, reported it has been harder recently to sell homes and property on or near a pipeline. ***For NDPC to request to develop a route through 75.5% private land, where owners have spent a lifetime or possibly generations to acquire, just so NDPC can save on the cost of ROW acquisition, seems like an unjustifiable burden on private landowners rights.*** Especially, when NDPC would in only a few short years get a return in profits from the development of this proposed pipeline. A one-time payment to the private landowner for only the 50-foot easement does not adequately compensate for the physical and emotional investment of a lifetime of work.

The human impact of a new ROW is not only economic, but it also has health and social impacts from adding a hazardous industrial site across their property. In the Revised EIR in Table 4.3.5-1, it shows there will be 168 residences within 500 feet and 21 within 50 feet (if not removed) from the new proposed pipeline corridor. These families will be left with this burden for as long as they own their land, each wondering: is their drinking water is safe; will their pets or farm animals be safe; will they be able to afford insurance for their home with a pipeline of explosive Bakken crude nearby; as organic farmers or resort owners, will they lose their livelihood; who is motoring around their land unannounced; how will they stop ATV and snowmobile trespass; how do they limit the spread of invasive species; how can they protect their family if there is a spill; could they afford to sell at a loss; and will they develop health consequences from stress or pollution from an oil release or ROW maintenance chemicals? These health and social human impacts need to be included in the EIR, especially since the greatest land-use is private ownership.

On many private lands without existing ROW's, NDPC locates the proposed route through the middle of the property. This creates an artificial border that will limit or eliminate further development of their property. Because most people build their home and structures closer to the middle of their property, this leads to the greatest impact on the private landowner's safety, greatest impact on the value of their home, greatest sacrifice to their land's aesthetics, and greatest limits to managing and developing their property. These are impacts that must be included in the EIR, and instead, ***the least impact route should be found and chosen.***

When reading the EIR, what strikes me most is how concealed is the impact on the landowner. In the media and at meetings, it is like ***the landowner is considered collateral damage to NDPC*** – an object of nuisance, which can just be paid off or politically disempowered. When I say landowner, I am not only talking just about private landowners, but also anyone who is responsible to protect the waters and land on to which NDPC is proposing the Sandpiper route.

How you bring to awareness and quantify what is concealed is through transparent, detailed and cumulative impacts documented in the EIR. But, the EIR is only the plan, and there is little evidence that this will be followed without randomly examining ROW easement contracts, considering previous construction inspection reports and citations, and considering other plans announced, but not included in the application. For example, in the Revised EIR in 4.3.1 in the last paragraph, it states “Forested areas on the temporary right-of-way and in additional temporary workspaces will be restored to allow the natural reestablishment of forest cover”. In a recent contract, NDPC has a clause of “the perpetual right to use and occupy such of Grantor's land adjacent to the Right-of-Way”... The whole, or a significant portion of the temporary space effectively will become permanent right-of-way, not as the Revised EIR states of allowing the temporary workspace to be restored to forest cover. And, Enbridge announced on March 5, 2014 as written in the Duluth News Tribune that the Line 3 upgrade could follow the Sandpiper line, so

they clearly have plans to expand this new proposed corridor. These give us clues to what is concealed on how ***the impact on the landowner will be much greater than is described in the current Revised EIR.*** The EIR must give a transparent, detailed and cumulative analysis of the human economic, social and health impacts from proliferating a new pipeline corridor through Minnesota.

Please recognize that all of us who are giving you comments in opposition to the Preferred Southern Route are trying to protect Minnesota's pristine environment, to protect a sustainable livelihood, and to protect the health of our families by drawing attention to the ongoing and real threat of a second continuous hazardous industrial site through rural Minnesota. We are not collateral damage. In this letter, I am trying to reveal how the Preferred Southern Route is (by hiding the detail of how it impacts the landowner) crafted more in the interests of NDPC expansion, rather than considering the criteria of what route has least impact and is best for the people who live in our state.

With all these human impacts, it seems clear that the existing Northern Mainline corridor needs to be more clearly analyzed and seriously considered in the Revised EIR.

And, NDPC needs to clearly justify by analyzing least impact criteria as compared to the existing Northern Mainline corridor, why the private landowner should have the greatest burden with 75.5% of the Preferred Southern Route being located on their lands. Without this, the Preferred Southern Route should be rejected.

I greatly appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sandy Sterle
2676 County Road 104
Barnum, MN 55707

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Kimberly Keelor <queenopine@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 11:00 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: RE: 13-474

I am opposed to the Sandpiper pipeline running through Minnesota. Let's think about the cumulative effect of other projects in MN that are being proposed such as the PolyMet North Met sulfide, copper nickel mining. Our natural resources of water, trees, fish and wildlife are what makes Minnesota beautiful. Placing all these underground pipes puts our health on the line considering Water sheds that lead to Lake Superior. Any leak from these pipes will change this landscape as well as our health and the drinking water. Many organic farms depend upon the ground being healthy. The wave of the future is eating food in its natural form.

--

Kim Keelor

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: bschillo@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 9:47 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: Docket 13-474

Docket 13-47

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed southern route of the Sandpiper pipeline. The proposed route would:

- Destroy hundreds of acres of carefully tended prime Carlton farmland, the breadbasket of local food for the Duluth area.
- Negatively impact the livelihood and land values of the landowners and impede the growing movement of new farmers to the area.
- Clear forestland and disturb wetland and open spaces. These biologically diverse areas are vital habitat and protect the health of Lake Superior and its tributaries.

New pipelines must be sited along existing pipeline corridors or other established rights of way when feasible in order to avoid damaging scarce farmland and the wild and wooded areas that protect the Nemadji River and Lake Superior.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Schillo

586 Deer Ridge Lane S.

Maplewood, MN 55119

651-231-7252

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Paul Schillo <schillop@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 8:30 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments; Hartman, Larry (COMM)
Subject: Docket 13-474 and 13-473 Public Comment

Brenda Schillo
2480 Garthus Road
Wrenshall, MN 55797

April 3, 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 and 13-473

Honorable Commissioners:

Please forgive me if this is not the proper venue for my comment. I am a landowner affected by this event, and I believe my comment could be beneficial to other Minnesota landowners in the future.

When Enbridge notified energy companies, law firms, and government agencies of their plans regarding the sandpiper pipeline, Enbridge requested a variance in the time landowners needed to be informed based on the premise it would burden the landowners to have this knowledge so early in the process. I would like to make the case that it is "burdensome" not to have been informed at the same time as other stakeholders. This incident has shown me there is a huge quantity of information to be discovered, everything from the process, legal procedures, Minnesota statutes, to landowner rights. All of this is needed to be an active, informed participant in this process, and the extra time would have been helpful.

In the future, please encourage companies to inform landowners at the same time as other stakeholders are informed and deny variances requested by companies regarding delayed notification times to landowners.

Sincerely,

Brenda Schillo

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Paul Schillo <schillop@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2014 9:35 AM
To: Hartman, Larry (COMM)
Subject: Docket Number 13-474

Brenda Schillo
2480 Garthus Road
Wrenshall, MN 55797

March 30, 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:

I grew up in the city limits of a small town, attended college in the twin cities, and always considered myself a "city girl."

When my husband approached me 18 years ago with his dream of living in the country and owning land, who was I to squelch his dream? One of his selling points to me, was the fact that land is a finite resource and once you have it, land can never be taken from you.

Last summer, upon receiving a certified letter from Enbridge stating our property was located on their proposed sandpiper crude oil pipeline route, I learned that legally obtained private property could be taken from an individual. Sadly, my view of the integrity of private land ownership has been tarnished.

Allowing a new crude oil pipeline corridor to cross Carlton County would be a breach of trust to many hardworking Minnesotans in this region. Co-locating new pipelines with existing crude oil pipelines is most consistent with the principle of nonproliferation and minimizes damage to farms, the environment and landowner rights. The Minnesota Supreme Court has upheld this nonproliferation principle. Please follow the Minnesota Statute regarding this principle when determining a route for Enbridge's NDPC sandpiper crude oil pipeline route.

Sincerely,

Brenda Schillo

Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Mike Gengler <mikegengler@googlemail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 04, 2014 5:26 AM
To: #PUC_Public Comments
Subject: 13-474

April 4, 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,

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

One of the ways that I know the area of the proposed route is a farm my aunt and uncle own. I have visited this farm many times, and for one summer, I even lived there. The farm is a great place to go to learn things. You can learn to milk a cow, shear a sheep, spin yarn, fell a tree safely, split firewood, restore an old outbuilding, raise a chicken for meat or for eggs, start a garden, can food to save for winter consumption, deliver a newborn animal, turn sap into syrup, repair a barbed wire fence, and many other things. It is also a place to gather with family and friends for relaxing, entertaining and fun times together.

A pipeline would change all that.

We, the citizens, need to protect the natural resources we have been given and the best way to do that is place oil pipes with other oil pipes. Non-proliferation is the best way to protect the environment. Following a power line corridor is not the same. Oil needs to go with oil.

Where we get our food from is an important aspect of life. If we allow oil pipelines to run thru our states farmland and fields we risk contaminating our food. Organic or not, all farmland should be protected from the dangers of an oil pipeline.

For these reasons, if the Sandpiper Pipeline is deemed necessary, then Enbridge should be required to route the pipeline along existing pipeline corridors.

Sincerely,

Mike Gengler

421 Van Buren Ave N Apt 118
Hopkins MN 55343