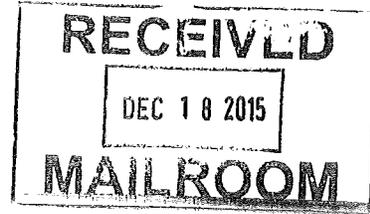




REPLY TO ATTENTION OF  
REGULATORY BRANCH

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ST. PAUL DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
180 FIFTH STREET EAST, SUITE 700  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101-1678



December 15, 2015

Regulatory File No. 2013-00934-WAB

Ms. Jamie MacAlister  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Ms. MacAlister:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was provided a copy of the Draft Scoping Document for the Sandpiper Pipeline Environmental Review (PUC Dockets PPL-13-474) filed by the Department of Commerce on November 13, 2015, and provided an opportunity to comment on the document. The document was submitted to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to outline the scope of the environmental review document that will be prepared for the Sandpiper project. We recommend the scope of analysis should also include consideration for the Line 3 Replacement Project (Docket PL-9/PPL-15-137).

We understand the scoping document is not intended to provide extensive detail, but is meant to outline the overarching framework of issues that will be addressed in the environmental review documents. As a result, we anticipate there will be an opportunity for the Corps of Engineers to provide detailed comments on methodology, potential effects and mitigation measures during the review of the draft environmental review document. We think the list of resources to be evaluated is suitable; however, the Corps would like to offer several recommendations.

The document indicates the Department of Commerce is establishing a tribal consultation process with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. We recommend the Department of Commerce consult with other Tribes or Bands that have interests in the ceded territories as well, and consider their interests during the route selection process. The environmental review document should consider effects to sustenance resources, as well as resources of cultural significance to Tribes, perhaps as part of the environmental justice analysis.

The Corps also recommends potential effects to Tribal historic, natural and cultural properties be given additional focus in the analysis of archaeological, historical and cultural resources.

We look forward to our continued interagency coordination and review of these projects and thank you for this opportunity to comment on the scoping document.

Regulatory Branch (File No. 2013-00934-WAB)

If you have any questions, please contact Ralph Augustin in our St. Paul office at (651) 290-5329 or [Ralph.j.augustin@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ralph.j.augustin@usace.army.mil). In any correspondence or inquiries, please refer to the Regulatory file number shown above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin R. Cox". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Benjamin R. Cox  
Chief, Northwest Section