

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Reservation Business Committee

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June 7, 2016



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Executive Director,
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Jamie MacAlister, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Scoping Comments Regarding the Sandpiper Pipeline Project and the Line 3 Replacement Pipeline Project, PUC Docket Numbers for Sandpiper: PL-6668/CN-13-473 and PPL-13-474; Line 3: PL-9/CN-14-916 and PPL-15-137

Dear Ms. MacAlister:

The Sandpiper Route Alternative-37 (RA-37), which would traverse through the southern edge of the external boundary of the Fond du Lac Reservation, has been reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Fond du Lac Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 and the Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36CFR800).

A spatial/graphic review of Fond du Lac's Cultural Resources Inventory identified that RA-37 would traverse within Fond du Lac's Cultural Preservation Zone that includes significant cultural/natural resources that provide a water source and several wild rice waters that the Band depends upon. Wild rice is basic to the traditional diet and important both culturally and spiritually as well as a central element in feasts and ceremonies. The quality of these waters and the aquatic habitat is essentially important to Band members.

From a cultural perspective, in recognition of the ecological importance of key cultural/natural resources within the external boundary of the Reservation, our concerns in regard to RA-37 footprint from both direct and indirect damage potential are substantial.

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa strongly requests that the Route Alternative RA-37 be omitted from the EIS Scoping Decision Document and no further analysis of this alternative be conducted.

The Band looks forward to continued coordination and consultation on this issue.

Sincerely,

Wally Dupuis
Chairman