

# Memorandum

**To:** Jon Mielke  
**From:** Mike Diller  
**Date:** October 17, 2001  
**Re:** **BP Pipelines Inc. and Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company  
Transfer Route Permits & Corridor Certificate Application  
Case No. PU-2587-01-455**

The following is written to provide the commission with a very limited review of this case regarding Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company's financial ability to provide service.

Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company (Tesoro) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tesoro Petroleum Corporation (TSO), a publicly traded company. Because the financial wherewithal of Tesoro is ultimately backed by TSO, staff reviewed the financial statements of TSO for the period ending June 30, 2001 as shown on an SEC website. Staff noted a positive stockholder equity balance of \$722 million. Staff also reviewed the financial information provided by the New York Stock Exchange for TSO including past stock prices, stock analyst recommendations and recent financial news.

Based on its review, staff concludes that Tesoro has access to sufficient equity to provide service in North Dakota.

Staff sees no reason to deny this application.

In accordance with the Commission's wishes, staff will serve this document on the applicant.