



13710 FNB Parkway, Suite 300
Omaha, NE, 68154-5200

November 7, 2012

North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC)
(Sent via email PDF letter)

Re: TransCanada Keystone Pipeline Fort Ransom Pump Station
11948 – 58th St., Ransom Co. N.D.
Noise Issue Update, November 2012

Dear Sirs:

This communication is intended to summarize past activities and future actions planned with respect to intermittent noise levels from the Fort Ransom Pump Station (the Station) located in Ransom County and a single area resident complaint and a resident inquiry related to our operations of the Station.

As TransCanada has communicated previously over the past year, we have taken the following steps to this date related to noise levels at this Station:

- Post-construction noise monitoring was completed at all Keystone Pump Station sites in North Dakota in July and August 2011. The results of the monitoring showed that the operation of all Pump Station sites in ND is in compliance with the noise criteria utilized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and which was voluntarily committed to by TransCanada during its permitting process.
- Supplementary noise monitoring was completed at three nearby residential locations (including a location selected with input from Mr. B. Pantzke on his property) near the Station over a period of 72 consecutive hours beginning November 29, 2011. The Station was operated under full load, meaning three of four pumps were operational, within the testing period. A day-night average noise level was determined based on the measurement data.
- The results of the monitoring in late November 2011 confirmed that the operation of the Station is in compliance with the permitted criteria.

- TransCanada completed near-field noise measurements of on-site equipment at the Station in March 2012. The near-field noise study was completed to support the review and evaluation of noise mitigation (reduction) alternatives. The measurement results were used to update a noise propagation model developed for the site and focus mitigation planning on the dominant sources of intermittent noise level increases. The results were also necessary for detailed engineering design of noise mitigation solutions.
- Based on the near-field noise assessment and mitigation design efforts, TransCanada installed additional materials to assist in sound dampening at the site in late August 2012. Specifically, this included the installation of additional acoustical lagging on select segments of above-ground large diameter piping near the pressure control valve and wrapping that valve with a blanket of acoustical insulation.
- As we continue to receive occasional feedback from 2 of the surrounding Landowners (Mr. B. Pantzke and Mr. M. Hammer) and at the request of Mr. B. Pantzke, TransCanada is now developing a plan to plant trees outside the fenced perimeter (on 3 sides) of our Station. The intention is to complete this work in the spring of 2013. This plan has been shared with Mr. Pantzke via email correspondence in late September.

TransCanada has maintained an open line of communication with all residents and other parties in the area (via formal letter updates) and specifically with Mr. B. Pantzke and Mr. M. Hammer. Numerous phone calls, emails and a personal visit (August 3rd) with Mr. Pantzke have occurred to share mitigation details as well as to collect and respond to operational feedback and concerns related to such. Verbal communication (phone calls) has occurred with Mr. Hammer as well during the August and September time period.

TransCanada remains committed to collecting feedback and seeking a reasonable resolution to this matter with all parties involved. Should you have any questions regarding this matter or the details as to future actions please contact me at 402-492-7454.

Sincerely,

Rob Latimer

Robert S. Latimer
Community Outreach Specialist
TransCanada
Ph. 402-492-7454 (office)
Ph. 402-332-8122 (cell)
Email: rob_latimer@transcanada.com
Web: www.transcanada.com

R. McGillivray – Area Manager, Glacial Lakes, TransCanada Great Plains Region

attachment - (Fort Ransom Noise Monitoring Receptor Map)