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August 6, 2013

North Dakota Public Service Commission (ND PSC)
(Sent Via Email PDF Format 080613)

Re: TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, Fort Ransom Pump Station
11948 – 58th St., Ransom County N.D.
Noise Issue and Tree Planting Update to July 2013

Dear Commissioners:

This communication is intended as a follow-up to our April 5, 2013 correspondence summarizing our recent actions and status of same to address noise issues at the Fort Ransom Pumping Station (Station).

As was shared in our past correspondence TransCanada developed and executed a plan to plant trees outside the fenced perimeter (on three sides) of our Station. We also plan to replace the Station pressure control valve in 2014, which we expect will result in additional noise reduction.

The request for tree planting was based on the initial general feedback from neighboring residents and acted on by TransCanada as a good neighbor gesture. The work scope and status for tree planting is noted below:

- 1) Acquire additional easement area outside of the Station property boundary to allow for tree planting. (Tree planting on north side of station was not completed to respect power line easement setbacks and future growth of trees).
 - a) Complete
- 2) Develop options to source trees and contractor to plant trees
 - a) Complete
- 3) Execute and complete tree planting
 - a) Completed as of mid-July (approximately 105, 6-foot mature spruce trees planted in two rows as shown in pictures Exhibit A attached)

Additionally, we have completed a review with input from an external acoustical consultant. The objective was to seek reasonable, practical solutions that make a measureable difference in the sound levels from the Station.



This review looked at a wide range of available options and involved understanding the benefits, drawbacks, complexity, effectiveness and timing of actions considered.

This review was balanced with the knowledge that we are already operating this station below and therefore in compliance with, the permitted criteria for pump station noise.

Input from past formal noise surveys at nearby residences and the Station (2011 and 2012) and feedback from residents over the past several months who provided times and dates of noise events was also factored into our review. Please note: As we have previously communicated we will not be pursuing any options to fully enclose the pumps / pump units at this Station due to site logistical and ongoing maintenance constraints.

Mitigation Options Reviewed (Ranked in Order of Magnitude and Complexity)

Option	Benefit(s)	Drawbacks
<p><u>Acoustical Barrier Walls</u> (Noise reduction materials around pump units and Station perimeter in key locations)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigates noise near the source • Known technology used at other sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational access issues requiring removal of barriers in some circumstances • Drifting snow around units could be an issue • May not completely eliminate reported noise issues
<p><u>Earth Berms Around Site</u> (Placed between pump units – noise sources and residences on Station property)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pump station would not be visible • Can act to absorb noise if close enough to noise source • Approach has been used at one other site (placed during site construction on one side) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berms need to be same height as pump units (10' to 30' high) requiring significant amounts of material to be brought in and be placed over a large footprint area. • Requires redesign of station and adjacent drainage to surrounding property. • Will not completely eliminate noise • Maintaining berms could pose long term issues (erosion, weeds, etc.)
<p><u>Station Pressure Control Valve (PCV) Change Out</u> (Existing PVC Valve replaced with a new design that should reduce flow generated noise)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing valve and operation of same is known noise source • Both feedback from residences (documented dates and times) and near source testing have suggested this is a predominant noise source • Another similar station pressure control will be changed out at end of July at a different site and results of the this equipment performance will be known this fall • A replacement valve is now on order and tentative station outage scheduled for 2014 installation of same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not reduce all noise sources • Requires Station outage and piping modifications

TransCanada also reviewed several other options for mitigation including:

- Active Noise Cancellation Technology
- Privacy Fencing with Screening (installation of a high perimeter fence with heavy gauge slates for privacy)

After careful review and input from experts, it was determined that neither of these options (above) would have a measurable impact on noise reduction and were not analyzed further.

We will continue to communicate with neighbors and appropriate agencies regarding the status of the control valve replacement at this Station as it is scheduled and installed.

Although noise levels are within compliance to the permitted criteria for the pump station operations, TransCanada understands that a small number of people are not satisfied with the nature of operations at our Station. We stand by our commitment to seek reasonable and practical solutions to address noise-related concerns.

A summary of all actions taken to date on this issue at this Station include:

1. Designed, built and are operating the Station within permitted limits
2. Measured noise levels (July / Aug. 2011 and Nov. 2011)) at nearest residences and confirmed operations are below permitted levels
3. Measured noise levels (spring 2012) at near source locations and confirmed noise levels at the Station
4. Applied acoustical lagging and blanketing on piping and valve based on near source testing (August 2012)
5. Planted trees around the Station (June 2013)
6. Planning replacement of the Station Pressure Control Valve with likely additional noise reduction from valve operations (scheduled for 2014)

Sincerely,



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c.c.

Virgil Pfennig – Glacial Lakes Area Manager, TransCanada Great Plains Region

Area Property Owners / Agencies noted below (hard copies mailed 080713):

B. Pantzke (neighboring landowner)
W. Kiebke (neighboring landowner)
L. Hanson (past Township Supervisor)
K. Bishop (neighbouring landowner)
M. Hammer (neighboring landowner / tenant of land where Station is located)
D. Anderson (property owner of land where Station is located)
T. & L. Hanson (neighboring landowners)
B. Keopplin (Chairperson, Sheyenne River Valley)
J. Kwapinski (Park Ranger, Fort Ransom State Park)

Attachment (Exhibit A)

Exhibit A

TransCanada Fort Ransom Pump Station

Aerial Picture – July 24, 2013



Gap noted in tree planting is due to avoiding area of pipeline easement where it exits the station. No large tree growth is permitted in the pipeline permanent right of way

View from Ground – June, 2013

