

# Connector to Keystone pipeline proposed

By James MacPherson  
Associated Press Writer

BISMARCK — A Houston company wants to ship North Dakota oil through a proposed pipeline that would carry Canadian crude to the Gulf of Mexico.

Quintana Capital Group Ltd. said it wants to build a \$250 million, 300-mile-long pipeline system from western North Dakota to eastern Montana, where it would meet TransCanada Corp.'s proposed Keystone XL pipeline.

Terry Cunha, a TransCanada spokesman at the company's headquarters in Calgary, Alberta, said no agreement has been reached with Quintana or any other company wanting to ship domestic crude in its pipeline.

"There are some discussions taking place," Cunha said. "We're looking at all options being proposed."

Quintana notified North Dakota regulators earlier this month of its pro-

posal to build a spur to the Canadian company's pipeline, state Public Service Commissioner Tony Clark said. Quintana wants to start construction in one year and have it completed by early 2013, the company's letter to North Dakota regulators said.

Quintana's pipeline would initially carry 100,000 barrels of crude from the Watford City area to Montana's Fallon County, where it also could be linked with pipelines that carry Montana crude, the company's proposal said.

Full exploitation of the oil-rich Bakken shale and Three Forks formations in western North Dakota has been stunted — along with prices — by the lack of refineries, pipelines and rail facilities to move the crude to market, government and oil industry officials say.

TransCanada wants to start construction next year on its 1,980-mile pipeline to move 700,000 barrels of crude daily from the tar sands in Alberta to oil refineries in Oklahoma

and Texas. The company hopes to have the pipeline completed in early 2013, Cunha said.

The pipeline's route would go through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska in the upper Great Plains.

Montana regulators have warned TransCanada that the project would be delayed in that state if the company refused to allow Montana and North Dakota oil producers a so-called on-ramp to the pipeline.

Gov. John Hoeven, Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer and oil industry leaders in the two states met with TransCanada officials in March to press the company into allowing U.S. crude in the pipeline.

The company has said for nearly two years that it would consider so-called interconnections to North Dakota's oil patch with that pipeline.

"We have solicited Bakken producers before and no parties were interested in interconnections until this year," Cunha said.

## ND ROUNDUP

### Hoeven to visit flooded DL basin

DEVILS LAKE — Gov. John Hoeven will visit the Devils Lake basin to meet with officials dealing with flooding.

Hoeven will meet with Devils Lake and Ramsey County officials around 9 a.m. Tuesday at the Devils Lake City Hall. He then plans to meet with Minnewaukan and Benson County officials later in the morning at the Benson County Courthouse.

Hoeven directed the North Dakota National Guard and Department of Emergency Services to work with Benson and Ramsey County officials to help in the wake of heavy rains that fell in the area Monday.

### USDA stops using beetles vs. tree

CHEYENNE, Wyo. —

The federal government has declared a cease-fire in its biological war against saltcedar, a nonnative tree that has taken over riparian areas across the West.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture last week formally ended a program of releasing saltcedar leaf beetles to control saltcedar.

Beetles no longer will be released in 13 states: Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Montana, Washington and Wyoming.

The agency scrapped the beetle program because saltcedar provides important habitat for bird species including the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher.

Associated Press

# ND power line's path concerns some

Associated Press

FARGO — Some Fargo-area officials worry that a high-voltage power transmission line planned to carry electricity from North Dakota wind farms to the Minneapolis-St. Paul market might hurt development.

The proposed CapX2020 power line, backed by a consortium of Minnesota utilities, is a \$550 million project slated for completion by 2015. It is one of three planned 345-kilovolt transmission lines across Minnesota that would connect to the Dakotas and Wisconsin.

Officials in Fargo and nearby townships worry that the power line might impede growth of cities and subdivisions to the south and west.

That concern is heightened by separate plans for a Red River flood-control diversion channel that could

bypass Fargo-Moorhead to the west. Areas inside the diversion channel would be well-protected against flooding and attractive for development, while growth outside the diversion would be less appealing.

"I really would like to see (the power line) south and west of wherever the diversion would end up," said Jim Gilmour, Fargo's planning director.

Officials in Stanley Township just to the south of Fargo have similar concerns.

"Why would you put a power line in the only place Fargo has to grow?" said township supervisor Paula Ekman.

An alternative route would extend the transmission corridor farther south, through Richland County, crossing the Red River into Minnesota south of Wahpeton.

A spokesman for the CapX2020 project said the utilities will try to address the concerns of landowners, cities and townships when determining the route.

"We absolutely understand," said Tim Carlsgaard of Xcel Energy, the lead partner in the Fargo-Monticello, Minn., transmission line project. "We get it. We're doing our best to work with the concerned citizens and cities and townships."

However, Carlsgaard said any increase in the route's distance would mean higher costs and might increase costs for ratepayers.

Regulatory approvals for the power line are pending in Minnesota. Most of the permits for the transmission project's corridor in North Dakota are yet to be filed.

# WINDFALL: Concerns about road damage prominent

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preventive maintenance along with oiling and periodically checking the turbines.

Stengel said Monday NextEra plans to add "a few additional permanent jobs" when the planned expansion is completed.

Jennifer Feist of the Barnes County-Valley City Economic Development Corp. said Thursday that for each dollar a new employee makes, she figures it will bring in five times that much in additional income to the area. "If five people make \$200,000 per payroll, or \$40,000 each, it would generate \$1 million," she said.

According to Feist, if NextEra expands: "It supports everything. If families come in, new children come into school. It also adds to our diversity and the community. It's very good overall. They have made a contribution to community services and events. NextEra has just been a great asset. It is all new money coming in."

Stengel said his company does not reveal what the company pays employees, but added, "We provide a very competitive wage."

Cindy Schwehr, chairwoman of the Barnes County Commission, said Friday: "Wind farms add to our tax base with greater tax receipts, and the benefit to the county is huge when they build them. It's fantastic for the county and exciting. We do have to monitor the impact on the infrastructure —

have to be sure road damage doesn't eat it up. It costs us about \$250,000 per mile to build a road. We must be reimbursed for the damages. ...

"There are some people disturbed by the noise and the view. Landowners are getting about \$6,000 per year in rent, and there is a 1,400-foot setback requirement from residences. It is always a balancing act."

Froelich said he serves on the board of directors for the Cass County Electric Co-op, which gets 30 percent of its power from wind energy.

County Commissioner Rodger Berntson said Thursday that economically, "they (wind farms) sure help, especially when they are being constructed. Then there are a lot of employees. There are fewer when they are doing just maintaining them (the wind turbines). I am a supporter of towers, from two perspectives. From the county standpoint it helps our economy and as an American we need the energy."

Berntson said he has heard from county residents complaining about both noise and the view, "but they brought in a lot of revenue to the county when they were being constructed."

### Landowners' concerns

Dennis and Cathryn Stillings recently moved back into Valley City because wind turbines near their home on Peak Road were too noisy for them, while a group of other Peak-area residents

landowners be involved in any decisions.

Mary Ann Miller and her husband, Jim, live on a 32-acre farm in rural Luverne. On Monday, she said both the noise and "shadow flicker" produced by turbine blades bother her.

"We live here because we wanted to live in a quiet, rural setting, and it was louder here at night than in the middle of a city," she said.

Randy Koch has two turbines on his farm off 18th Street Southeast near Luverne.

"As far as we're concerned, we're getting financially compensated, but we're happy with it," he said. "The noise hasn't been a big problem for us. They do make some noise, but there is more good than bad. It brings money to landowners, tax money to the county and jobs. It's something we have to do. I think it (Ashtabula) is a worthwhile project, and the company is good to work with. I feel it is necessary for our country. Wind Turbines do change the skyline. We have a turbine one-quarter mile from the house. It doesn't keep you awake at night, but you can hear it. I don't want my grandkids to have to keep buying oil from" the Middle East.

Hovey Molstad now has six turbines on his farm on 21st Street Southeast, and one more is planned.

"It's all right, but it (installing the turbines) is tough on the roads," Molstad said. "Wind power is the coming thing. Another problem on the farm is

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PRIORITY LIST AND INTENDED USE PLAN FOR THE ALLOCATION OF DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS TO MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH DAKOTA FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010. Notice is hereby given that the North Dakota Department of Health will hold a public hearing at 2:00 p.m. on July 22, 2010, in the 3rd floor conference room at the Gold Seal Center, 918 East Divide Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota for the purpose of receiving and considering comments on the proposed Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Priority List and Intended Use Plan. All interested parties are invited to appear and present comments, or mail their comments to the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Municipal Facilities, 918 East Divide Avenue, 3rd Floor, Bismarck, ND 58501-1947. Copies of the Priority List and Intended Use Plan are available upon request.

(June 22, 2010)

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Midcontinent Communications/Turtle Mountain Communications, Inc. Rural Exemption Investigation Case No. PU-10-157 NOTICE OF HEARING June 16, 2010

On May 12, 2010, Midcontinent Communications (Midcontinent) filed notice with the Commission that Midcontinent had by letters dated April 16, 2010 and April 23, 2010 made bona fide requests under 47 U.S.C. § 251(c) for wholesale resale of telecommunications services for the Willow City, Dunseith and Bisbee, North Dakota exchanges from Turtle Mountain Communications, Inc. (Turtle Mountain).

Under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(A) a rural telephone company is exempt from the requirements of Section 251(c) until it receives a bona fide request and until the state commission determines that the exemption should be terminated. Midcontinent requests that the Commission conduct an inquiry for the purpose of determining whether to terminate the Turtle Mountain's 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(A) exemption from providing its services for resale. Under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f) the Commission must conduct an inquiry and within 120 days after receiving notice of a bona fide request, must decide whether to terminate the exemption. A public hearing has been scheduled for August 4, 2010 at 9 a.m. (CST) in the Commission Hearing Room, 12th Floor, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota.

The issues to be considered in this matter are:

1. Whether the request of Midcontinent is unduly economically burdensome.
  2. Whether the request of Midcontinent is technically feasible.
  3. Whether the request of Midcontinent is consistent with 47 U.S.C. § 254 (other than subsections (b)(7) and (c)(1)(D) thereof).
  4. The implementation schedule for compliance with the request should the exemption be terminated.
  5. If Turtle Mountain's exemption under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(A) is terminated, whether the exemption is to be terminated for the whole company.
  6. If Turtle Mountain's exemption under 47 U.S.C. § 251(f)(1)(A) is terminated, whether the exemption is to be terminated for all services required under 47 U.S.C. § 251(c).
- For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400 or 877-245-

2. What is MDU's rate of return on its property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?

3. What is a just and reasonable rate of return on MDU's property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?

4. What rates and charges are necessary to provide a just and reasonable rate of return on MDU's property, used and useful, for the service and convenience of the public in North Dakota?

5. Are MDU's proposed rate schedules designed in such a manner that they result in a basis of charge to its customers that is just and reasonable without discrimination?

6. Other relevant information or proposals concerning the proceeding. Public input sessions will be held via interactive television on July 12 at 12:00 p.m. CDT (11:00 a.m. MDT) and on July 13 at 7:30 p.m. CDT (6:30 p.m. MDT). Members of the public are invited to appear and participate in the public input session at the locations set forth below.

Bismarck State College Vocational Technical Ctr Rm 216 1200 College Dr Bismarck ND 58501

Williston State College Main Building, Room 108 Williston ND 58801

Dickinson State University Klinefelter Hall, Room 216 Dickinson, ND 58601

The public will also be able to hear the input session by connecting to the Commission's web site <http://www.nd.gov/psc> and then clicking on the "link at the bottom of the home" page that says "Broadcast of Public Input Sessions over IVN. The Commission will receive e-mail questions during the session at [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov)."

A public input session is not considered part of the technical hearing and the discussion at a session will not become part of the record evidence reviewed by the Commission in making its decision. The discussion will, however, aid the Commission and its staff in identifying areas of concern that may require further investigation. For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400 or 877-245-6685 (toll free in North Dakota), or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission at least 24 hours in advance. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION Tony Clark, Commissioner Kevin Cramer, Chairman Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner

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IN THE SUPREME COURT STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

NOTICE OF HEARING Supreme Court No. 20100169

In the Matter of the Petition to Change the Resident Chambers for District Judgeship No. 4, Southeast Judicial District, from New Rockford to Carrington, North Dakota and Supreme Court No. 20100174

In the Matter of the Petition to Change the Resident Chambers for District Judgeship No. 4, Southeast Judicial District, from New Rockford to Lisbon, North Dakota

On June 11, 2010, pursuant to North Dakota Supreme Court Administrative