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July 20, 2012

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Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

RE: PU 10-630 Plains Pipeline L.P.: Bakken North Crude Oil Pipeline, Williams Co., ND

Mr. Nitschke:

On February 1, 2012, Plains Pipeline, L.P. (Plains), received a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (#127) and a Route Permit (#136) for its Bakken North Pipeline project from the Public Service Commission (Case No. PU 10-630). Plains is seeking authorization for one minor route modifications as fully described in the enclosed documents. Please find one original and three copies of the following route amendment application to existing permits for Case No. PU 10-630: Bakken North Crude Oil Pipeline Project.

Upon your review, should you have questions or seek additional information please contact me at 651-282-0650 or via e-mail at wmccarthy@go2e3.com.

Best Regards,

William F. McCarthy
E3 Environmental, LLC

Enclosures- (4) North Dakota Public Utilities Commission Route Amendment Application

CC: I. Jim Fleetwood, Plains (with attachments)
M. Walcavich, Plains (with attachments)
E3 Project Files

61 PU-10-630 Filed: 7/23/2012 Pages: 8
Route amendment application

Plains Pipeline, L.P.

William McCarthy, E3 Environmental, LLC

Introduction

On February 1, 2012, Plains Pipeline, L. P. (Plains), received a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (# 127) and a Route Permit (#136) for its Bakken North Pipeline project from the Public Service Commission (Case No. PU-10-630). This pertains to the construction of a crude oil pipeline located in Williams County, North Dakota (Project). As stated under North Dakota Century Code, Section 49-22-07, a utility may not begin construction of a transmission facility in the state without first having obtained a route permit. The facility must be constructed, operated, and maintained in conformity with the permit and any terms, conditions, or modifications of the permit. All permitting requirements were met at that time and construction preparations of the pipeline were initiated.

Plains initiated construction of the project on or about May 23, 2012. Normal construction sequence includes centerline staking of the approved alignment. On or about May 30, 2012, the centerline staking of the route identified a previously unknown encroachment into the approved workspace and alignment. The encroachment involved a recently installed well pad and its associated infrastructure. In the interest of minimizing collateral impacts to the environment and project schedule, Plains is requesting a minor route modification to accommodate a minor offset of the approved centerline to create an adequate distance between the wellhead production casing and the pipeline so that each entity can conduct maintenance operations.

Plains has engineered a new alignment for the purpose of creating additional distance from the wellhead production casing. This will require a minor modification of the original alignment entailing an offset of approximately 10 feet for an approximate length of 967 feet. Plains requests the approval of this minor route modification to facilitate the installation and future operations of this pipeline.

This request will not result in any modification to previously reported facility type, size or design including above ground facilities.

This request shall conform to all previously approved mitigation measures as well as right-of-way preparation and reclamation measures.

This request shall not impact any Exclusion or Avoidance Areas and shall conform with the Siting Criteria as previously reported.

All supporting attachments have been previously filed with the Commission except for the engineering detail of the proposed off-set alignment.

Project Location

The proposed route amendment occurs in the vicinity of MP 30 which is located in T157N, R103W, Section 5, Williams County, North Dakota.

Route Amendment

Plains requests Commission approval of a minor route modification to accommodate construction workspace requirements and future operating needs to accommodate a well pad. Please refer to the attached engineering drawing for additional details. The proposed route deviation includes:

- 10 foot offset west of the approved alignment, to include consistent and equal offsets to:
 - Construction right of way; and
 - Permanent right of way.
- Length of route modification:
 - 967 feet
 - Beginning at Station 1605+00
 - Ending at Station 1614+67

Route Analysis and Findings

The requested route modification and all associated workspace will occur entirely within the area previously surveyed for natural and cultural resources. These environmental survey limits coincide with the boundaries of the Certificate of Corridor Compatibility previously issued for the Project.

The requested route modification shall not result in new or additional impacts to natural or cultural resources and shall conform with the results and conclusions as previously reported.

Attachments:

- Figure M2 Route Overview – original alignment and survey corridor (previously filed as late file exhibit)
- Engineering Drawing – alignment offset
- Drawing 14933-M-111 - previously approved route (previously filed with original application)
- Figure SC-6 – mapped natural resources within re-route area (previously filed with amended route)
- Figure SC-CR-06 – mapped cultural resources within re-route area (previously filed with amended route)