



# Public Service Commission State of North Dakota

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## NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE

**Re: Project: Rangeland Pipeline, LLC: Crude Oil Pipeline – Williams County  
Case No.: PU-10-637**

The Commission's September 29, 2011 Order in Case No. PU-10-637 issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 123 and Route Permit No. 132 to Rangeland Pipeline, LLC (aka Inergy Dakota Pipeline, LLC and Crestwood Dakota Pipelines, LLC) ("Company") for the location of a 20.5-mile crude oil pipeline in Williams County, North Dakota.

### **Item 1**

The Certification to Order Provisions paragraph 32 (Certification) attached to and made part of the Order required that the Company provide the Commission with both an electronic and a paper copy of the corridor designated by the Commission within three months of the Commission's September 29, 2011 Order. The Certification required that the Company also provide an electronic version of the designated corridor that can be imported into ESRI GIS mapping software within 3 months of the completion of the construction. The Company is in noncompliance of the Commission's Order by not filing with the Commission these mapping requirements.

Staff requests these mapping documents and data be filed with the Public Service Commission by 30 days after the receipt of this Notice of Noncompliance to avoid further action due to noncompliance

### **Item 2**

The Certification to Order Provisions paragraph 33 required that the Company provide the Commission with both an electronic and a paper copy of the design specifications for the construction of the transmission facility showing the location of the transmission facility as built within three months of completion of the construction. The Certification required that Company also provide an electronic version of the as-built facility design specifications that can be

imported into ESRI GIS mapping software within 3 months of the completion of the construction. The Company is in noncompliance of the Commission's Order by not filing with the Commission these mapping requirements.

Staff requests these mapping documents and data be filed with the Public Service Commission by 30 days after the receipt of this Notice of Noncompliance to avoid further action due to noncompliance.

**Item 3**

The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications (Specifications) attached to and made part of the Order require that two trees be planted for every one tree removed, and that two shrubs be planted for one shrub removed. The Specifications require that tree and shrub replacements be inspected annually, in September, for three years, with the first annual inspection at least one year from the anniversary date of the original plantings. The Specifications require that a report of each annual report be submitted to the Commission by October 1 of each year, documenting the condition of plantings and any woodlands work completed as of September of each year.

On August 28, 2015, and October 7, 2015, Commission staff inquired concerning the status of the tree and shrub mitigation for the Project.

From a review of case records, it is unclear that the Company has met the tree and shrub mitigation requirements. Crestwood's October 27, 2015 response indicates that three 3 landowner properties were chosen for 175 replacement trees and 25 replacement shrubs. It appears all replacement plantings had expired, but Crestwood was reaching out to landowners regarding their preferences for tree replacement/re-planting.

Staff requests the Company provide an update regarding compliance with the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications requirements by 30 days after receipt of this Notice of Noncompliance to avoid further action due to noncompliance.

If Crestwood will be restarting its efforts to comply with the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications requirements, the company may wish to consider complying instead with the March 13, 2019, simplified version of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications. I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the March 13 version and a copy of the version the company is currently under. Should Crestwood choose that option, please notify the Commission in writing so that the Commission can amend the September 29, 2011 Order to incorporate the March 13, 2019 of the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

N.D.C.C. 49-22.1-20(3) states:

3. Any person who willfully engages in any of the following conduct is subject to a civil penalty of not to exceed ten thousand dollars for each such violation for each day the violations persist, except that the maximum penalty may not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for any related series of violations:

- a. Begins construction of an electric energy conversion facility or an electric transmission facility without having been issued a certificate or permit pursuant to this chapter.
- b. Constructs, operates, or maintains an electric energy conversion facility or an electric transmission facility other than in compliance with the certificate or permit and any terms, conditions, or modifications contained therein.
- c. Violates any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted by the commission pursuant to this chapter.
- d. Falsifies, tampers with, or renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained pursuant to a certificate or permit issued pursuant to this chapter.

The civil penalty provided for in this subsection may be compromised by the commission. The amount of the penalty when finally determined or agreed upon in compromise must be deposited in the general fund and, if not paid, may be recovered in a civil action in the courts of the state.

In addition to the civil penalty the Commission may impose, the Site Certificate for the Project could be suspended or revoked for operation in violation of N.D.A.C.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best regards,



Patrick Fahn  
Director, Public Utilities Division

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Rangeland Pipeline, LLC  
Crude Oil Pipeline – Williams County  
Siting Application

Case No. PU-10-637

**Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications**

**Inventory**

1. Trees and shrubs anticipated to be cleared, including those that are considered invasive species or noxious weeds (e.g., *Caragana arborescens*, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, *Rhamnus cathartica*, *Tamarix chinensis*, *T. parviflora*, *T. ramosissima*, *Ulmus pumila*), shall be inventoried before cutting. The inventory shall record the location, number, and species of trees and shrubs.
2. In windbreaks, shelterbelts, and other planted areas, trees or shrubs anticipated to be cleared, regardless of size, shall be inventoried for replacement.
3. In native growth areas, trees anticipated to be cleared that are 1-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) or greater shall be inventoried for replacement.
4. In native growth areas, shrubs anticipated to be cleared in the permanent right-of-way shall be inventoried for replacement.
5. In native growth areas outside the permanent right-of-way, shrubs shall be cut flush with the surface of the ground, taking care to leave the naturally occurring seed bank and root stock intact. If soil disturbance is necessary, the native topsoil shall be preserved and replaced after construction. Shrubs shall be allowed to regenerate naturally where native topsoil is preserved and replaced. Where native topsoil is not preserved and replaced, shrubs anticipated to be cleared shall be inventoried for replacement.
6. In native growth areas, trees and shrubs may be inventoried by actual count or by sampling method that will properly represent the woody vegetation population. A sampling plan developed by the company, filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), and approved prior to the start of construction shall define the sampling method to be used for trees, for tall shrubs and for low shrubs. The data from the sample plots shall be extrapolated to the total acreage of the wooded area to be cleared to determine the species and quantity of trees and shrubs to be replaced.

### **Clearing for Construction**

7. Trees and shrubs shall be selectively cleared, leaving mature trees and shrubs intact where practical.
8. The width of clear cuts through windbreaks, shelterbelts and all other wooded areas shall be limited to 50 feet or less unless otherwise approved by the Commission.
9. If the area of trees or shrubs actually cleared differs from the area inventoried, the difference in number of trees and shrubs to be replaced shall be noted on the inventory.

### **Replacement**

10. Prior to replacement, documentation identifying the number and variety of trees removed as well as the mitigation plan for the proposed number, variety, type, location and date of replacement plantings shall be filed with the Commission for approval.
11. Tree replacement shall be on a 2 to 1 basis with 2-year-old saplings. Shrub replacement shall be on a 2 to 1 basis with stem cuttings.
12. Trees and shrubs shall be replaced by the same species or similar species, except in the case of invasive species or noxious weeds, suitable for North Dakota growing conditions as recommended by the North Dakota Forest Service.
13. Landowners shall be given the option of having replacement trees or shrubs planted off the right-of-way on the landowner's property or waiving that requirement in writing and allowing those replacement trees or shrubs to be planted at alternative locations.
14. At the conclusion of the project, documentation identifying the actual number, variety, type, location, and date of the replacement plantings shall be filed with the Commission.
15. Tree and shrub replacements shall be inspected once a year for three years, on or about the anniversary of the plantings, and, on or shortly before October 1 of each year, a report shall be submitted to the Commission documenting the condition of replacement planting and any woodlands work completed. If after three years from the anniversary of the plantings the survival rate is less than 75%, the Commission may order additional planting(s).

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Company  
Description  
Siting Application**

**Case No. PU-??-???**

**Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications**

**Inventory**

Prior to cutting or clearing trees or shrubs for construction:

- All trees one-inch or greater in diameter at breast height must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.
- All shrubs and all coniferous trees of any diameter must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.

**Clearing**

The maximum width of tree and shrub removal is 50 feet, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

**Replacement**

1. Landowners must be given the option to have trees and shrubs that are removed from their property replaced on their property. The landowner may waive this option in writing. If the landowner waives this option, the company shall plant replacement trees and shrubs in an alternate location in the same region, if practical.
2. Trees and shrubs must be replaced on a minimum two-to-one basis. The company shall develop a Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan (Plan) in consultation with landowners who are seeking replacement trees and shrubs and in accordance with USDA-NRCS-North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide: Windbreak and Woodland Tree Care and Management. The guidelines outlined in the Technical Guide shall be followed until filing of the Plan summary outlined in number 5 below.
3. The purpose of the company's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan is to create sustainable plantings, appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions that will provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment.
4. The Plan, including the proposed number, variety, type, location, and approximate date for plantings, shall be filed with and approved by the Commission.
5. Two years after completion of the plan, the company must file a summary documenting how the plan achieved the purpose outlined in number 3 above. The summary must also report the number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs.
6. The Commission will consider, on a limited basis as conditions warrant, mitigation plans that provide long-term wildlife habitat and conservation benefits but do not involve the replanting of trees and shrubs.