



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Subject: Vantage Pipeline Project – Environmental Assessment

To: All Interested Parties

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The U.S. Department of State (DOS) has issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the Vantage Pipeline Project (Project) for public review. The DOS is the lead federal agency and is acting consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed Project is to construct and operate an ethane pipeline and related facilities at the international border of the United States and Canada, originating from a source near Tioga, North Dakota, United States, extending northwest through Saskatchewan, Canada, and terminating near Empress, Alberta, Canada. The proposed Project would traverse Williams and Divide Counties, North Dakota.

On November 15, 2010, Vantage Pipeline US LP (Vantage) applied to the DOS for a Presidential Permit for the construction, operation, and maintenance of pipeline facilities on the United States-Canada border for the transportation of ethane. On January 11, 2011, the DOS issued a *Notice of Receipt of Application for a Presidential Permit to Construct, Operate and Maintain Pipeline Facilities on the Border of the United States* in the Federal Register (Volume 76, No. 7, page 1659). On August 19, 2011, the DOS issued to the public and parties listed on the environmental mailing list the *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and to Initiate Consultation Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for the Proposed Vantage Pipeline Project* (NOI). On December 13, 2011, the DOS also issued the NOI (dated December 9, 2011) in the Federal Register (Volume 76, No. 239, page 77583). The NOI provided the public and agencies with a description of the proposed action, invited public participation in the scoping process, and solicited public comments for consideration in establishing the scope and content of the Project's EA.

The EA describes the proposed Project, including its anticipated impacts and alternatives, and addresses comments received during the public scoping period and additional information received from Vantage.

The EA has been issued to the public and parties listed on the environmental mailing list, and is available for download from the DOS Project-related website (<http://www.vantagepipeline.state.gov/>).

For further information on the Project EA, contact Alexander Yuan using the contact information provided below.

Sincerely,

Alexander Yuan
NEPA Coordinator, Vantage EA Project Manager
U.S. Department of State, OES/ENV
2201 C St. NW, Room 2726
Washington, DC 20520
Telephone: 202-647-4284
Email: YuanAW@state.gov