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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

August 6, 2012

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

RE: PU 12-040 Plains Pipeline L.P.: Nelson to Ross Pipeline - Mountrail Co.,
ND

Mr. Nitschke:

On April 25, 2012, Plains Pipeline, L.P. (Plains), received a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (#133) and a Route Permit (#143) for its Nelson to Ross Pipeline project from the Public Service Commission (Case No. PU 12-040). 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 12-040: Nelson to Ross 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,

For,

William F. McCarthy
E3 Environmental, LLC

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

CC: I. Jim Fleetwood, Plains Pipeline
M. Walcavich, Plains Pipeline
E3 Project Files

61 PU-12-40 Filed: 8/8/2012 Pages: 8
Application for route amendment

Plains Pipeline, L.P.

William McCarthy

Introduction

On April 25, 2012, Plains Pipeline, L. P. (Plains), received a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (# 133) and a route permit (#143) for the Public Service Commission (Commission) Case No. PU-12-040. This pertains to the construction of a crude oil pipeline located in Mountrail 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.

Normal construction sequence includes centerline staking of the approved alignment. On or about June 29, 2012, as centerline staking progressed one previously unknown encroachment into the approved workspace was identified. A Bear Tracker pipeline was identified within the approved Plains permanent right of way corridor.

Plains has engineered a new alignment to avoid the existing Bear Tracker pipeline that encroaches into the approved workspace and alignment. A minor modification of the original alignment entailing an off-set from the approved centerline approximately 49 feet to 55 feet the north for an approximate length of 5,303 feet. All alignment changes will remain within the Certificated Corridor. Plains has received approval from the affected landowners. 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 between MP 14.6 and MP 15.4 which is located in the following sections of Mountrail County, North Dakota:

- T156N, R93W, Sec 22, S ½
- T156N, R93W, Sec 23, SW ¼

Route Amendment

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

- Various offsets ranging from 49 feet to 55 feet of the approved alignment to include consistent and equal offsets to:
 - Construction right of way; and
 - Permanent right of way.
- Total length of offsets reroute request:
 - 5,303 feet
 - Beginning at Station 767+00
 - Ending at Station 820+03

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:

- Re-route Engineering Drawing
- Figure M1 - route overview (previously filed with original application)
- Proposed Route Overview #4 – original alignment and survey corridor (previously filed with amended route)
- Figure SC-6, Siting Criteria – mapped natural resources within re-route area (previously filed with amended route)
- Figure SC-CR-06, Siting Criteria – mapped cultural resources within re-route area (previously filed with amended route)