

Via e-mail to Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco and Mr. Fahn



Tesoro High Plains Pipeline
Company LLC

19100 Ridgewood Parkway
San Antonio, TX 78259
214 666 6000 Phone

January 5, 2012

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Commissioner Kevin Cramer
Commissioner Tony Clark
Commissioner Brian P. Kalk
Illona Jeffocat-Sacco
Patrick J. Fahn
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Certification – Tesoro Pipeline Maintenance: (Pipeline Segment: Keene to Dunn), Dunn County

Dear Sirs and Madame:

This correspondence is to notify the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") that Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC ("Tesoro") intends to replace approximately 1,200 feet of pipeline in a segment known as the "Keene Station to Dunn Station 12-inch pipeline" located in S5, T146N, R93W, in Dunn County, North Dakota. This segment of pipe is part of an existing pipeline extending approximately 39.5 miles between Tesoro's Keene and Dunn Stations, which is a component of Tesoro's pipeline system extending from Tioga, North Dakota, to the Mandan Refinery. The 12-inch pipeline segment was constructed in 1953 (originally as a 16-inch pipeline and modified in the 1980s to a 12-inch pipeline) prior to the development of the North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act ("Siting Act"). Although North Dakota Century Code 49-22-03(3) is not applicable to this maintenance activity, Tesoro is submitting the attached certification pursuant to the definition and requirements of "construction" in the Siting Act.

Tesoro intends to replace the existing piping with a deeply-bored pipeline segment in order to insure public safety and pipeline integrity. This proactive maintenance would eliminate the risk of damage to the pipeline caused by potential landslide issues from saturated soil conditions caused by heavy rain in 2011. Tesoro refers to this work as the Dunn County horizontal directional drilling project ("Project"). Tesoro submits this Certification subsequent to discussions with Commission staff and correspondence between the Commission and Tesoro's legal representatives, Robert D. Comer and Tory I. Jackson of Faegre & Benson, dated November 10, 2011.

Tesoro certifies that Project construction is restricted to within 350 feet of the existing pipeline centerline, inside of its permitted right-of-way. An environmental analysis, prepared for Tesoro in December, 2011, evaluated Tesoro's Project relative to exclusion or avoidance areas, as defined in

the North Dakota Administration code 69-06-08-02, and concluded that Project activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas. Also, Tesoro certifies that it will comply with all the requirements of other agencies having jurisdiction over any phase of construction described herein.

Tesoro requests that the Commission acknowledge receipt of the attached Certification. Tesoro appreciates the time and attention provided to this matter by the Commission and its staff. Please contact Bernie Frieh, Manager of Environmental Compliance at 210-626-6465 should the Commission require further information.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Grimmer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ralph J. Grimmer
Vice President, Logistics

Att: Certification

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BEXAR


CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT PURSUANT TO ND CENTURY CODE 49-22-03(3)

Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC

I, Ralph J. Grimmer, a duly authorized agent of Tesoro High Plains Pipeline Company LLC ("Tesoro"), having the authority to act on behalf of and bind Tesoro, do hereby certify under oath:

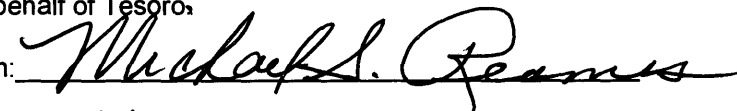
1. That Tesoro does not possess a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility nor a Route Permit Certificate issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission for its existing pipeline in a segment known as the "Keene Station to Dunn Station 12-inch pipeline".
2. That the construction activities are restricted to the geographical location and are within the right-of-way boundaries in Dunn County, ND, at S5, T146N, R93W;
3. That no additional lands have been acquired adjacent to the existing Tesoro facilities;
4. That construction activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area.

Signed this 5th day of January, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas

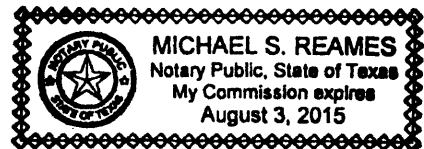


Ralph J. Grimmer

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 5th day of January, 2012, by Ralph J. Grimmer on behalf of Tesoro.

Sign: 

Print: Michael S. Reames



Notary Public in and for the State of Texas
My Commission Expires: 8-3-2015