



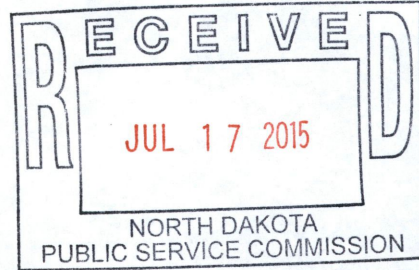
"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

## NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

April 23, 2015

Kate Kenninger  
Natural Resource Specialist  
SWCA Environmental Consultants  
116 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Bismarck, ND 58501



Dear Ms. Kenninger:

RE: NST Express Pipeline Project

NorthStar Midstream is proposing to construct an approximately 23.5-mile-long, 12-inch-diameter crude line originating in Alexander and terminating in Fairview in McKenzie County, North Dakota. The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has reviewed this project for wildlife concerns.

A primary concern with this project is the possible disturbance of native prairie and wooded draws associated with construction of the pipeline and access roads. We ask that work within these areas be avoided to the extent possible, every effort be made to prevent destruction of woody vegetation, and disturbed areas be reclaimed to pre-project conditions.

The pipeline route will cross the Yellowstone River, a Class I fishery. We recommend that this stream be crossed by directional boring to protect the resource. If this method is not feasible, construction should not take place within the waterway between April 15 and June 1, and controls should be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Every precaution should be taken to prevent leaks or spills from entering the river.

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are a major concern in North Dakota. State law requires that the contractor, including any and all subcontractors involved in this project, take appropriate precautions to prevent the introduction or movement of ANS within the state. The contractor should provide the department a reasonable opportunity to inspect any equipment prior to these items being launched or placed into waters of the state. The department's Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, Mr. Fred Ryckman, can be contacted at 701-770-0920 for equipment inspections or additional information regarding ANS prevention protocols.

13 PU-15-232 Filed: 7/17/2015 Pages: 2  
Comments

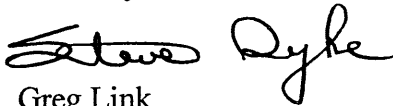
The National Wetland Inventory indicates various wetlands within the proposed project corridor. Steps should be taken to protect any wetlands that cannot be avoided, no alterations should be made to existing drainage patterns, and above-ground appurtenances should not be placed in wetland areas. Unavoidable destruction or degradation of wetland acres should be mitigated in kind.

We recommend that aerial surveys be conducted for raptor nests before construction begins. Our records indicate a golden eagle nest located in close proximity to the project area. We recommend that a ½-mile construction buffer be implemented around active eagle nest sites (known occupied within the past 5 years). Ms. Sandra Johnson, Conservation Biologist, can be contacted at 701-328-6327 for additional information on golden eagle nests in the state.

We do not believe this project will have significant adverse effects on wildlife or wildlife habitat, including species of conservation priority, provided these recommendations are implemented where appropriate.

Private Lands Open to Sportsmen (PLOTS) is a public access program which cost-shares with private landowners to help conserve fish and wildlife habitat. PLOTS lands are not owned or managed by the ND Game and Fish Department. Information regarding PLOTS locations is available at: <http://gf.nd.gov/hunting/private-land-open-sportsmen>. This page is updated to reflect changes as tracts are added or removed.

Sincerely,



(for)

Greg Link  
Chief  
Conservation & Communication Division

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