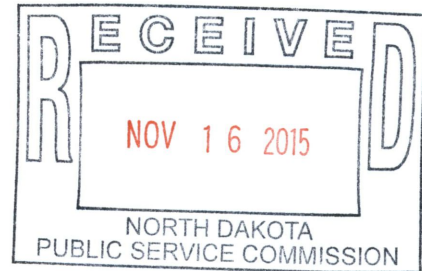


November 16, 2015

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS

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



**RE: NST Express, LLC's Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit, and Waiver Application
Case No. PU-15-232**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On October 14, 2015, the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order ("Order") granting Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 173 and Route Permit No. 185 to NST Express, LLC ("NST Express") for the NST Express Pipeline Project ("Project"). In accordance with Provision No. 28 of the Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Transmission Facility Siting, which is part of the Order, NST Express submits this letter to inform the Commission of plans to modify the Project's pipe design specifications.

In its Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit ("Application") for the Project, and in testimony presented at the September 10, 2015 public hearing, NST Express stated that the Project would install approximately 12-inch CS, API-5L, X52 pipe with a nominal wall thickness of 0.375 inch, and would increase the wall thickness to 0.500 inch for waterbody, road and railroad crossings. Since the public hearing, NST Express has determined that installation of 12-inch CS, API-5L X60 pipe with a nominal wall thickness of 0.250 inch, and a nominal wall thickness of 0.375 inch at waterbody, road and railroad crossings, is more appropriate for the Project. The pipe used for the Yellowstone River Crossing will remain API 12-inch CS, API-5L, X52 pipe with a nominal wall thickness of 0.500 inch.

The changes in the pipe specifications noted above are based on further hydraulic analysis and pipe design calculations utilizing more refined engineering data obtained after the public hearing. Based on these analyses, utilizing a nominal wall thickness of 0.250 inch, with 0.375 inch

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Letter regarding modification to project pipe design

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at the specified crossings, still far exceeds the pipeline design standards set forth in 49 C.F.R. Subpart 195.106 (per federal regulation, the minimum wall thickness required is 0.213 inch, including at all crossing locations). Moreover, utilizing 0.375 inch at crossings exceeds the crossing requirements of the applicable crossing authorities, including the road authorities and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad.

Overall, installation of pipe with the design specifications set forth in the Application would significantly increase Project costs without a corresponding need or benefit. Therefore, NST Express plans to change the pipe design specifications as set forth above.

An additional copy of this letter is enclosed. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mollie M. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mollie" being the most prominent.

MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/ms/57278988
Enclosure

cc: Zachary Pelham (*via E-mail*)
Patrick Fahn (*via E-mail*)
Erik Ludtke (*via E-mail*)
Chip Lang (*via E-mail*)