



Jack Dalrymple, Governor
Mark A. Zimmerman, Director

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January 26, 2016

Katie Schmitt
E3 Environmental, LLC
871 Jefferson Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55102

Re: Plains Pipeline LP Johnsons Corner to Dakota Access Pipeline Project

Dear Mr. Schmitt:

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced project for the proposed construction of the Johnsons Corner to Dakota Access Pipeline Project in McKenzie County, North Dakota.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare plants and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, there are no documented significant ecological community occurrences or plant and animal species of concern in our database within project area. Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

The Department recommends that the project be accomplished with minimal impacts and that all efforts be made to ensure that critical habitats not be disturbed in the project area to help secure rare species conservation in North Dakota. Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal and ecological community conservation, management and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact me at (701-328-5370 or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Kathy Duttenhefner

Kathy Duttenhefner, Coordinator
Natural Resources Division

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