

November 17, 2017

Julie Prescott
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Ms. Prescott:

Carlson McCain, Inc. (CMI) conducted a construction inspection at the Hess Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) Pipeline – Williams County (Case No. PU-16-189) on October 22, 2017, on behalf of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC). The project consists of installing a 12-inch diameter, 1.1-mile crude oil pipeline.

CMI Inspector, Chad Tucker, started at the north end of the pipeline corridor at its entrance to the Hess (ETP) Facility and walked the pipeline south to the Hess Ramberg Trucking Facility (RFT). Notes and photographs of the reclaimed ROW were taken along the way. Inspection notes and figures are attached to this letter. Figure 1 depicts the location(s) of photographs taken during the inspections.

Field Review

Weather conditions at the time of the field visit were sunny, 70 degrees, with 15 mph west winds. The inspection started at the north end of the pipeline corridor at its entrance into the Hess ETP Facility.

The ground is mostly barren just outside of the Hess ETP Facility with some weedy species present (Figure 2). A rockpile was noted, just off the southwest corner of the Facility, within the pipeline corridor. Barren, eroded soil and noxious weeds, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), are present around the rockpile (Figure 3). The survey continues west, across the cultivated portion of the corridor. The wetland/waterbody crossing was inspected and found to have ECD's in place and functioning. Vegetation at the crossing was poorly established with Canada thistle common (Figure 4 and 5). The grassy area west of the crossing also had poorly established vegetation with smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), black medic (*Medicago lupulina*), kochia (*Bassia scoparia*), and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) common (Figure 6). The reclaimed ROW in the cultivated areas had been planted in row crop and had no erosion issues.

As the ROW turns south, kochia (*Bassia scoparia*), is present (Figure 7). Further to the south, Canada thistle is common along the west edge of the ROW (Figure 8 and 9). As the Pipeline enters the Rhamberg Trucking Facility ground cover is sparse with kochia being common (Figure 10).

Conclusion

Overall the reclamation planting appears unsuccessful, likely due to the abnormally dry conditions throughout the 2017 growing season. The vegetation should be monitored and replanted if ground cover does not improve during the spring of 2018.

Please contact me at 701-595-7007 if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad Tucker
Wildlife Biologist

cc: Mr. Suwat Suwansathit – Project Lead, Hess Corporation.

Attachments: notes, figure, and field photographs

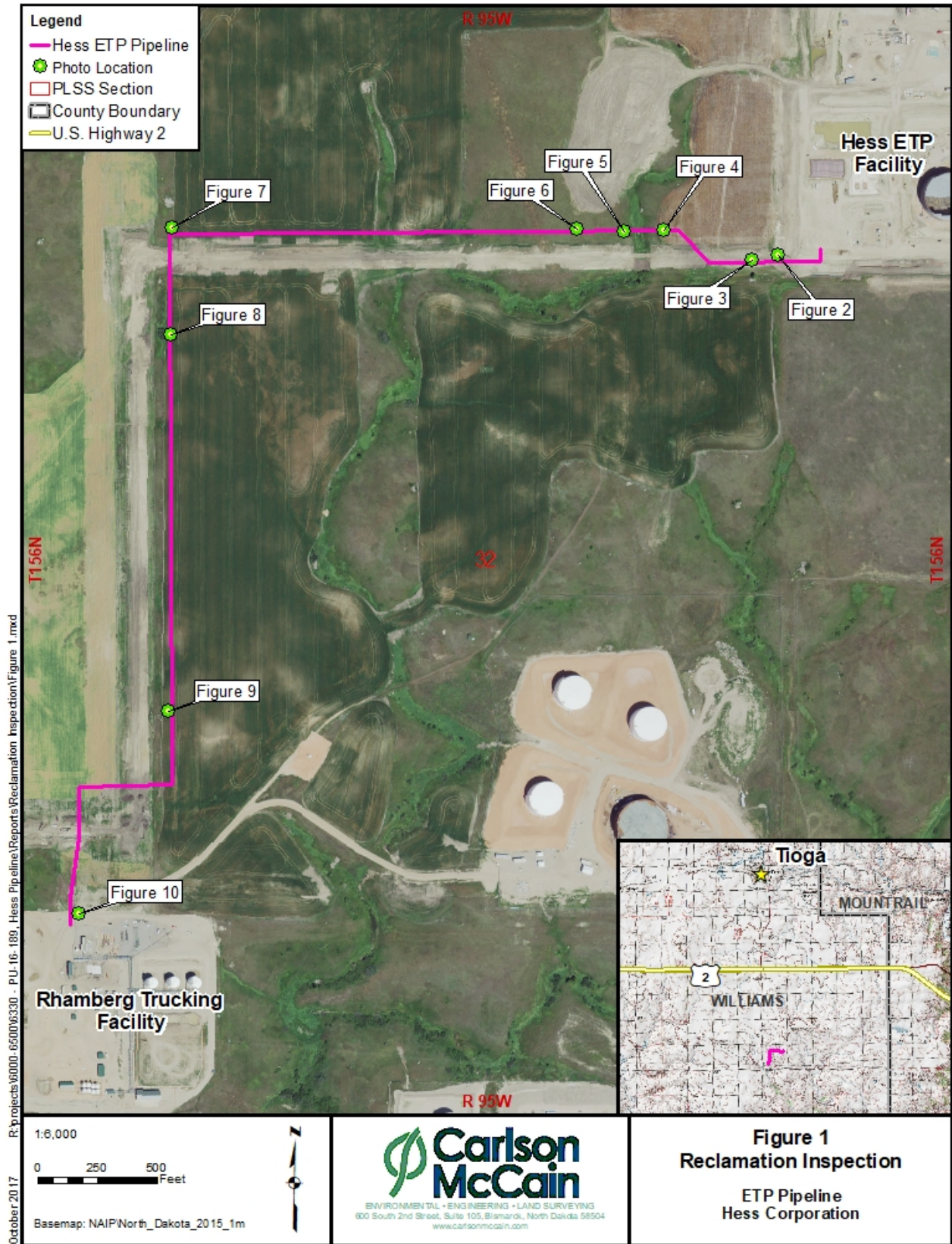




Figure 2. Photo taken facing east towards where the ETP Pipeline enters the ETP Facility.



Figure 3. Photo taken looking east. A rockpile lies within the ROW with unlevel bare earth and noxious weeds.



Figure 4. Photo taken looking west at the wetland/waterbody crossing. Vegetation is poorly established with noxious weeds present.



Figure 5. View of ECD's in place and functioning on the west side of the wetland/waterbody crossing.



Figure 6. Photo taken looking west at the uncultivated portion of the ROW. Vegetation is present here, however, species present are primarily “weedy” species.



Figure 7. Photo taken looking south from the where the Pipeline turns to the south. Kochia is common in this area.



Figure 8. Photo taken looking north. Canada thistle is common on the edge of the ROW in this area.



Figure 9. Photo taken facing south towards the Rhamberg Truck Facility. Canada thistle can be seen on the edge of the Pipeline ROW.



Figure 10. Photo taken facing north from inside the Rhamberg Trucking Facility. Vegetation is poorly established here with kochia being common.