

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Hess North Dakota Export Logistics LLC
12-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline – Williams County
Siting Application

Case No. PU-16-189

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY REGULAR AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Geralyn R. Schmaltz deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **27th** day of **September 2021**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, **3** envelopes by first class mail, fully prepaid, securely sealed each containing a photocopy of:

- **Order on Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications**

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

See attached list

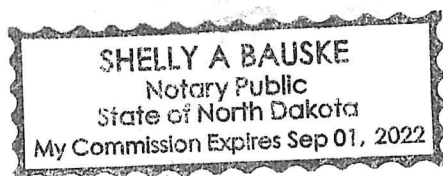
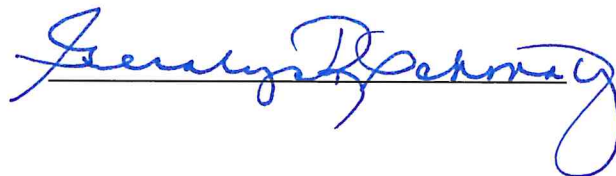
Geralyn R. Schmaltz further deposes and says that on the **27th** day of **September 2021**, she sent an electronic message to **46** addressees, each including an electronic copy in portable document format of the same document.

The electronic mails were addressed as follows:

See attached list

The addresses shown are the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable post office and electronic mail addresses.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this **27th** day of **September 2021**.



(SEAL)



Shelly A Bauske
Notary Public

Federal Aviation Administration
Bismarck Airports Dist. Office BIS-ADO-

Federal Aviation Administration
2301 University Avenue Building 23B
Bismarck ND 58504

County Auditor
Williams County
PO Box 2047
Williston ND 58802-2047

County Commissioner
Williams County Commission
PO Box 2047
Williston ND 58802-2047

ndaero@nd.gov
Gaye Niemiller
Aeronautics Commission
PO Box 5020
Bismarck ND 58502-5020

masagsve@nd.gov
Matt Sagsveen
Attorney General's Office

todd.j.lindquist@usace.army.mil
Todd Lindquist
Corp of Engineers
PO Box 527
Riverdale ND 58565-0527

cte@nd.gov
Dept of Career and Technical Education
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

governor@nd.gov
Doug Burgum
Governor's Office
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

trev.albright@us.af.mil
Trev Albright
Minot AFB

Minot ND

joey.specht@us.af.mil
Joey Specht
Minot AFB

Minot ND

stevebest@nd.gov
Steve Best
N D Water Commission
900 E Boulevard
Bismarck ND 58505

christi.fisher@nd.usda.gov
Christi Fisher
NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SVC
PO BOX 1458
BISMARCK ND 58502-1458

commerce@nd.gov
ND Commerce Department

goehring@nd.gov
Doug Goehring
Agriculture Department
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

BLM MT North Dakota FO@blm.gov
Bureau of Land Management
North Dakota Field Office

dhseo@nd.gov
Department of Human Services

energyimpact@nd.gov
Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office

nathan.davis@nd.gov
Nathan Davis
Indian Affairs Commission
State Capitol - 1st Floor J Wing INSIDE
Bismarck ND 58505

bruce.johnson.25@us.af.mil
Bruce Johnson
Minot AFB

Minot ND

lauren.kinker@us.af.mil
Lauren Kinker
Minot AFB

Minot ND

gheiser@nd.gov
Gerald Heiser
N D Water Commission
900 E Boulevard
Bismarck ND 58505

ndascd@lincolnoakes.com
ND Assoc of Soil Conservation Dist
3310 University Drive
Bismarck ND 58504-7564

ksonsalla@nd.gov
Kevin Sonsalla
ND Department of Commerce

mdockter@nd.gov
Monte Dockter
ND Department of Transportation
State Highway Building
Bismarck ND 58505

dtlRequest@nd.gov
Jodi Smith
ND Dept. of Trust Lands

caboyd@nd.gov
Clint Boyd
ND Geological Survey

sjarntson@nd.gov
Sara Arntson
ND Job Service
P.O. Box 5507 INSIDE MAIL
Bismarck ND 58506-5507

mhumann@nd.gov
Mike Humann
ND Land Department

ndicinfor@nd.gov
North Dakota Industrial Commission

thomas.claeys@nds.u.edu
Thomas Claeys
NSDU North Dakota State Forest Service

pwax@nd.gov
Peter Wax
State Health Department

lbmeidinger@nd.gov
Lorna Meidinger
State Historical Society

bertanderson@nd.gov
Bert Anderson
State Representative
P O Box 604
Crosby ND 58730

dglatt@nd.gov
David Glatt
ND Dept. of Environmental Quality

jwilliam@nd.gov
Jeb Williams
ND GAME & FISH DEPT
INSIDE MAIL

emurphy@nd.gov
MR ED MURPHY
ND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

labor@nd.gov
ND Labor Department

jjkringstad@ndpipelines.com
ND Pipeline Authority

atravnicek@nd.gov
Andrea Travnicek
North Dakota Parks & Rec
1600 E Century Ave, Ste. 3 INSIDE MAIL
Bismarck ND 58503-0649

krockema@nd.gov
Karl Rockeman
State Health Department

dglatt@nd.gov
Dave Glatt
State Health Department

dlongmuir@nd.gov
Donald Longmuir
State Representative
PO Box 519
Stanley ND 58784-0519

drust@nd.gov
David S. Rust
State Senator
PO Box 1198
Tioga ND 58852-1198

wendy ross@nps.gov
Wendy Ross
Theodore Roosevelt Nat'l Park
PO Box 7
Medora ND 58645

gjwiche@usgs.gov
District Chief
U S Geological Survey
821 E Interstate Ave
Bismarck ND 58501

jessica n johnson@fws.gov
Jessica Johnson
US Fish & Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck ND 58501

sschwenke@fs.fed.us
Sherri Schwenke
U S Forest Service
240 W Century Ave
Bismarck ND 58501-1494

cenwo-de@usace.army.mil
District Engineer
US Army Engineer District Omaha
1616 Capitol Ave
Omaha NE 68102

ndfieldoffice@fws.gov
US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
3425 MIRIAM AVE
BISMARCK ND 58501-7926

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Hess North Dakota Export Logistics LLC
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Case No. PU-16-189

ORDER ON TREE AND SHRUB MITIGATION SPECIFICATIONS

September 22, 2021

Preliminary Statement

The Commission's September 7, 2016 Order on Recommended Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 192 and Route Permit No. 204 to Hess North Dakota Export Logistics LLC (Hess) for the location of a 1.1 mile, 12-inch crude oil pipeline in Williams County North Dakota. Attached to the September 7, 2016 Order was the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications for the Project.

On March 13, 2019, the Commission revised its Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications to update the process for mitigation reporting.

On June 27, 2017, the Commission approved Hess's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan. The Commission has no record of tree and shrub annual survival inspection reports.

On June 15, 2021, Commission Staff sent a Notice of Noncompliance to Hess suggesting that Hess may wish to consider complying instead with the March 13, 2019, version of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

On July 12, 2021, Hess responded to the June 15, 2021 Commission Staff Notice of Noncompliance.

Discussion

The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications (Specifications) attached to and made part of the Commission's September 7, 2016 Order required that two trees be planted for every one tree removed, and that two shrubs be planted for one shrub removed. The Specifications required that tree and shrub replacements be inspected annually, in September, for three years, with the first annual inspection at least one year from the anniversary date of the original plantings. The Specifications further required that a report of each annual inspection be submitted to the Commission by October 1 of each year, documenting the condition of plantings and any woodlands work completed as of September of each year.

As a result of Project construction, 30 trees/shrubs were removed.

The Commission's March 13, 2019 Specifications were conceived to be goal or purpose oriented to create sustainable plantings, appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions that will provide long-term benefits to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment. In lieu of annual reporting for three years, the Commission's March 13, 2019 Specifications requires one final report filed by the company after two years that details the company's tree and shrub mitigation efforts and describes how the company's mitigation achieved the purpose stated above.

Since it appears Hess has not begun planting tree and shrub replacements to comply with the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, Commission Staff suggested that Hess consider complying instead with the March 13, 2019 version of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

Hess has indicated a desire to comply with the March 13, 2019 version of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications instead of the September 7, 2016 Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

Having considered this matter, the Commission issues the following:

Order

The Commission Orders that its September 7, 2016 Order in Case No. PU-16-189 is amended to replace the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications adopted in that Order with the March 13, 2019 version of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, attached to and made part of this Order.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Randy Christmann
Commissioner


Julie Fedorchak
Chair


Brian Kroshus
Commissioner

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications

Inventory

Prior to cutting or clearing trees or shrubs for construction:

- All trees one-inch or greater in diameter at breast height must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.
- All shrubs and all coniferous trees of any diameter must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.

Clearing

The maximum width of tree and shrub removal is 50 feet, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

Replacement

1. Landowners must be given the option to have trees and shrubs that are removed from their property replaced on their property. The landowner may waive this option in writing. If the landowner waives this option, the company shall plant replacement trees and shrubs in an alternate location in the same region, if practical.
2. Trees and shrubs must be replaced on a minimum two-to-one basis. The company shall develop a Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan (Plan) in consultation with landowners who are seeking replacement trees and shrubs and in accordance with USDA-NRCS-North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide: Windbreak and Woodland Tree Care and Management. The guidelines outlined in the Technical Guide shall be followed until filing of the Plan summary outlined in number 5 below.
3. The purpose of the company's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan is to create sustainable plantings, appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions that will provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment.
4. The Plan, including the proposed number, variety, type, location, and approximate date for plantings, shall be filed with and approved by the Commission.
5. Two years after completion of the plan, the company must file a summary documenting how the plan achieved the purpose outlined in number 3 above. The summary must also report the number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs.

6. The Commission will consider, on a limited basis as conditions warrant, mitigation plans that provide long-term wildlife habitat and conservation benefits but do not involve the replanting of trees and shrubs.