



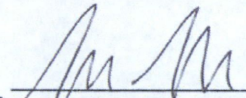
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
ND Ecological Service Field Office

July 19, 2016

Mr. Scott Larson, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Project as described is not expected to have significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. Contact this office if changes to the project are made or new information becomes available.

10/26/16
Date


for North Dakota State Supervisor

**Epping Transmission Company, LLC – DAPL Connector Pipeline Project
Project Notification and Request for Review**

Epping Transmission Company (ETC) is planning the DAPL Connector Pipeline Project (Project). The Project will result in the construction of an approximately 3.6 mile, 12-inch diameter, crude oil pipeline. The pipeline will be entirely located within Williams County North Dakota and is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission. The Project centerline will traverse Township 155N Range 98W Section 6, Township 155N Range 99W Sections 1 & 36 and Township 156N Range 98W Sections 31 & 32. The Project alignment and 1-mile wide Study Area are depicted on the attached maps.

E3 Environmental, LLC (E3), on behalf of ETC, submits this information and respectfully requests the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to review a 1-mile wide study area, which is centered upon the Project alignment. Project location maps are enclosed.

On July 7, 2016, E3 reviewed the USFWS Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) system for the purpose of identifying threatened and endangered species, designated critical habitat, proposed critical habitat, Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) compliance, and other natural resource issues of concern that may occur within Williams County. The results include:

Federally Listed Species

- Interior least tern (*Sternula antillarum*) – Endangered
- Whooping crane (*Grus americana*) – Endangered
- Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) – Endangered
- Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) – Threatened
- Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) – Threatened
- Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) – Threatened
- Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) – Endangered

E3 has reviewed the available data describing the life history, critical habitat, and conservation measures associated with each species to evaluate the potential effects of the Project on these resources. The results of this analysis are as follows:

Interior least tern: The interior populations of the least tern have historically been associated with large river systems, such as the Missouri River, for breeding and