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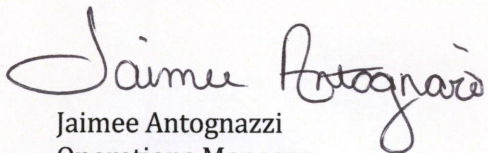
September 21, 2018
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**Revegetation Inspection Report - Epping Transmission Company
Williams County, ND
ND PSC Case No. PU-16-614**

In accordance with your request, Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) is pleased to submit for your use two hardcopies of the Epping Transmission Company Revegetation Inspection report.

Keitu appreciates the opportunity to work with you on this project and I hope this report meets with your complete approval. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at the phone number above or via email at jantognazzi@keitu.com.

Sincerely,


Jaimee Antognazzi
Operations Manager

Enclosure: Revegetation Inspection Report (2)

Reclamation and Revegetation Inspection Report

12.75-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline – Williams County
Epping Transmission Company, LLC

ND PSC Case No. PU-16-614

Prepared for:

North Dakota Public Service Commission
Public Utilities Division
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard – Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

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Executive Summary

The State of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), Division of Public Utilities, has contracted Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to perform consulting services for reclamation and revegetation inspections. This report addresses the inspection findings concerning issues requiring resolution, areas of concern, recommendations for resolution of issues, and a determination whether the area affected by construction activities has been restored as near as practicable to the condition as it existed prior to the beginning of construction, including the establishment of desired plant species where applicable in Case No. PU-16-614.

The 12.75-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline (Project) is located in Williams County, North Dakota. The Project connects the Epping Station and the existing Divide Mainline Pipeline to the Dakota Access Pipeline Epping Facility. Construction for the Project began in March 2017 and was completed in August 2017. The purpose of the reclamation and revegetation inspection was to ensure the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order for the Project. Prior to the construction inspection, Keitu reviewed all Project documents to identify any and all aspects requiring site verification.

The site was visually inspected on September 17, 2018 by Keitu staff. The project was very well-maintained, secured, and in good condition. A majority of the project area appears to be returned as near as practical to preconstruction conditions. Undesirable species are often found the first growing season after a soil disturbance. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), were observed throughout most of the western 1/3rd of the right-of-way (ROW). Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed as planned with numerous efforts to minimize impacts and to stay in compliance with the siting laws, siting rules, and Commission Orders.

Introduction

The Project was approved and constructed in 2017 and is operated by Epping Transmission Company, LLC (Epping Transmission). The Project includes a 12.75 inch diameter crude oil pipeline totaling approximately 3.2 miles in length and two pipeline connections to the existing Divide Mainline and the new Dakota Access Pipeline valve site. The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), which issued its Order Amending Certificate and Permit for Case No. PU-16-614 on January 18, 2017.

Purpose and Scope of Inspection

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Commission to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Construction inspections ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order Amending Certificate and Permit (Order).

The Commission retained Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to complete a reclamation and revegetation inspection of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Application for Amended Corridor Certificate and Route Permit (Application), Order, Certification Relating to Order Provisions (Certification), and other applicable documents to determine Project-specific siting and construction requirements; a site visit and inspection of facilities; documentation of compliance; and a report summarizing findings. This report includes, but is not limited to, site visit observations, documentation of compliance deficiencies, and a summary of issues that should be addressed for the Project to be considered complete and in full compliance.

Methods

Keitu reviewed North Dakota siting laws and rules, the Application, Certification, and the Order for the Project to identify what Project-specific documentation was required for compliance. Keitu then reviewed Project documents in the Commission Online Case Search to identify those siting laws, rules, and Application and Order assertions that already had written verification, those that still required documentation, and those that required physical site verification.

Keitu staff visited the Project area on September 17, 2018 to visually inspect the site. Digital photographs were taken showing typical Project infrastructure and documenting any problem areas. During the field visit, the crude pipeline was in operation.

As-Built Inspection Follow-Up

There were no areas of concern requiring follow-up found during the previous As-Built Inspection.

Observations

Construction was complete and the Project was operational during the time of visit. Cropland and native prairie are the majority of the vegetation along the Project area. The plants in the cropland appeared to be similar in size and density to crops in areas adjacent to the Project area. Canada thistle and Leafy Spurge were found sporadically on the western 1/3rd of the ROW.

Conclusion

Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed as designed with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The Project site was in good condition and well maintained. A majority of the project area appeared to be returned as near as practical to preconstruction conditions. The observation of Canada thistle and Leafy Spurge was found on the western 1/3rd of the pipeline just south of the railroad bore. This area of the Project is found to be in violation of Provision #18 Restoration and Maintenance of Certification Relating to Order Provisions Transmission Facility siting and the expectations of the Williams County Weed Board.

Management Review

The services performed by Keitu and its staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the degree of care and technical skill appropriately exercised by professionals currently practicing in this area under similar time and budget constraints.

Recommendations and findings contained in this report represent our professional judgment and are based upon available information and technically accepted practices at the present time and location. Other than this, no warranty is implied or expressed.



9/21/2018

Jaimee Antognazzi, Operations Manager

Date

Report Photo #1: Overview of pipeline scar from North to South.



Report Photo #2: Overview of pipeline scar from South to North.



Report Photo #3: Overview of pipeline scar from North to South.



Report Photo #4: Overview of pipeline scar from East to West.



Project Photo Location Map:

