


MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kroshus, Fedorchak, and Christmann
From: Patrick Fahn
Date: February 27, 2019 
Subject: Case No. PU-18-24: Hess – Keene Oil Gathering System Conversion Tree and Shrub Plan

On February 20, 2019, Hess filed a Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan in Case No. PU-18-24. Since no record of tree/shrubs cleared when the Keene Oil Pipeline was constructed as a gathering system, Hess used aerial imagery to perform an inventory of trees/shrubs removed within a 50-foot construction right-of-way. Hess then applied the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Garrison Project's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) #14 Vegetation Mitigation (SOP #14) methodology to determine the number of replacement tree/shrubs required based upon the approximate acreage where trees/shrubs were removed.

Hess estimates that 10 trees and 56 shrubs were removed. Hess will plant a minimum of 20 trees and 112 shrubs. Preliminary site preparation will occur in fall 2019, with planting in spring 2020. Hess plans to utilize the McKenzie County Soil Conservation District to facilitate landowner coordination, site preparation, replacement planting, and subsequent survival monitoring.

I recommend approval of this initial portion of the plan, with consideration of final approval after replacement planting location(s) have been identified and documented for Commission approval.