

Appendix A Agency Correspondence

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Agency Consultation

Letters were mailed to various federal, state, and local agencies on June 17, 2014. The letters provided a brief description of the Project and requested information from the various agencies that may help in understanding the issues related to routing, permitting, and design. Specific information was requested from each agency. An example letter follows.



Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation

2665 145th Street West

P.O. Box 455

Rosemount, MN 55068-0455

www.minnesotaenergyresources.com

June 17, 2014

Bob Patton
MN Department of Agriculture
625 North Robert Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

EXAMPLE

Dear Bob Patton,

On behalf of Minnesota Energy Resources, HDR would like to tell you about--and request comments on-- the proposed Rochester natural gas pipeline project (Project). The Project will require a Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Minnesota Energy Resources is in the initial phase of identifying potential routes for the pipeline. A route permit application is expected to be submitted in September 2014, with final approval taking approximately eight to twelve months.

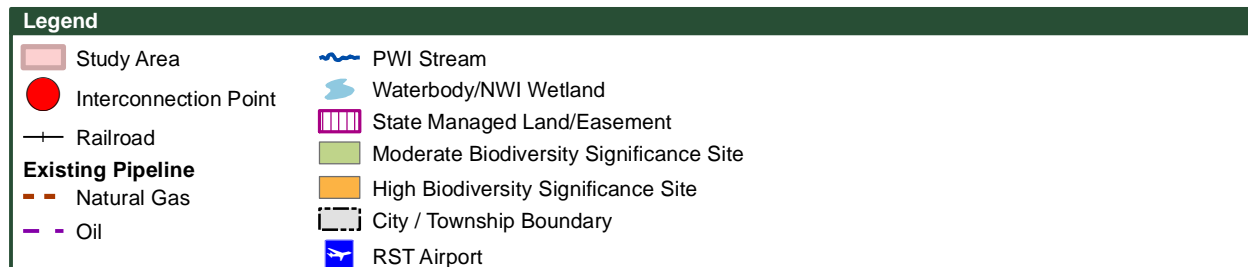
This 400 pounds per square inch (psi) (12 inch diameter) natural gas pipeline will be approximately 12 miles to 22 miles long and will interconnect with Northern Natural Gas stations 1D, northwest of Rochester, Minnesota and 1B south of Rochester, Minnesota in Olmsted County (see enclosed Study Area figure). The project will require an easement that is 30 to 50 feet wide. The project is needed to improve reliability, increase system capacity, and support future growth in the City of Rochester.

We are seeking comments and information regarding the proposed Project and the identified Study Area that would help identify the best possible route for the pipeline. Specifically, we would like information about organic farms, agricultural practices, soils and other agricultural issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.

We appreciate your participation in the Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline project and look forward to working with you. We would like your input by the first week of July, if possible. If you have questions, comments, feedback or would like additional information, please contact Darrin Johnson (Integrus) at 715-697-3130 or email dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com or Lydia Nelson (HDR) at 763-278-5909 or email lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com. Information provided via mail should be sent to Lydia Nelson at HDR, 700 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Sincerely,

Darrin Johnson
Environmental Lead



Agency Mailing List

Technical Team Representatives

Name	Agency	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Letter Specific request
Bob Patton	MN Department of Agriculture	625 North Robert Street	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about organic farms, agricultural practices, soils and other agricultural issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Craig Affeldt	MN Pollution Control Agency	520 Lafayette Road North, 4th Floor	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about water quality, permitting and other PCA issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Jamie Schrenzel	MN Department of Natural Resources MN Board of Water and Soil Resources	500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about DNR properties, threatened/endangered species and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Travis Germundson	MN Department of Transportation	520 Lafayette Road	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about existing wetland mitigation sites, conservation practices and other BWSR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Jennie Ross	MN Department of Transportation	395 John Ireland Blvd Mail Stop 620	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about highway crossing requirements, permitting and other MnDOT issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Stacy Kotch	MN Department of Transportation	395 John Ireland Blvd Mail Stop 678	St. Paul	MN	55155	information about highway crossing requirements, permitting and other MnDOT issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Kelly Gragg-Johnson	MN Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office	345 Kellogg Blvd. W., Level A	St. Paul	MN	55102-1906	information about the cultural and historic resources, approvals and other SHPO issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Randall Doneen	MN Department of Natural Resources	500 Lafayette Rd, Box 25	St. Paul	MN	55155-4025	information about DNR properties, threatened/endangered species and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Keith Parker	MN Department of Natural Resources Central Region Office	1200 Warner Rd.	St. Paul	MN	55106	information about the State Game Refuge, DNR lands and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Richard G. Devlin	Olmsted County - Administrator Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department	151 4th St. SE	Rochester	MN	55904	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other county concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Mitzi Baker	Rochester Township Clerk	2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100	Rochester	MN	55904	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other county or city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Gary Swenson	Marion Township Clerk	4111 11th Avenue SW	Rochester	MN	55902	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Janet Hoffmann	Cascade Township Clerk	2850 Oakview Ct SE	Rochester	MN	55904	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Michael Brown	Kalmar Township Clerk	6002 Buck Hill Ct. NE	Rochester	MN	55906	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Terry Behrens	Rock Dell Township Clerk	6429 ValleyHigh Rd NW	Byron	MN	55920	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Betsy Kleinwort	High Forest Township Clerk	8075 Co Rd 126 SE	Byron	MN	55920	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Willie Dux	Pleasant Grove Township Clerk	2956 Co Rd 120 NE	Stewartville	MN	55976	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Bev Harris	Salem Township Clerk	2033 80th St SE	Rochester	MN	55904	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Sharon Petersen	Township Cooperative Planning Association	3802 Co Rd 150 SW	Byron	MN	55920	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Roger Ihrke	City of Rochester - Administrator	Rochester Township Hall, Room 10	Rochester	MN	55902	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Stevan Kvenvold	City of Rochester - Administrator	4111 11 Ave SW	Rochester	MN	55904	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Mary Blair-Hoeft	City of Byron - Administrator	201 4th Street SE	Byron	MN	55920	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Bill Schimmel, Jr	US Army Corps of Engineers	680 - Byron Main Court NE,	Stewartville	MN	55976	information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Project Manager	US Fish and Wildlife Service - TC	1114 South Oak Street	La Crescent	MN	55947	information about wetland permitting and other issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Tony Sullins	Field Office	4101 East 80th Street	Bloomington	MN	55425	information about federally listed wildlife and USFWS concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.
Larry Hartman	MN Department of Commerce	85 7th Place East Suite 500	St. Paul	MN	55101	

Table 1: Summary of Agency Information Requests and Responses

Agency/Recipient	Information Requested	Response
United States Fish and Wildlife Service / Tony Sullins	Information about federally listed wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
US Army Corps of Engineers/ Project Manager	Information about wetland permitting and other issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)/ Bob Patton	Information about organic farms, agricultural practices, soils and other agricultural issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Mr. Patton responded via email and provided a list of certified organic farmers in Olmsted County. He also expressed interest in discussing an agricultural mitigation plan for the Project. During further coordination, MDA provided an example agricultural mitigation plan and MERC has prepared a draft that it will be reviewing and finalizing with MDA concurrent with seeking a Route Permit.
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)/ Craig Affeldt	Information about water quality, permitting, and other MPCA issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	An email response was received on June 27, 2014, from Patrice Jensen. In this email, she requested more time to review the proposed routes and the areas of environmental concern. She suggested looking at the routes that are not near residential areas, organic farms, and wetlands. She also stated that the Project will need multiple permits from the MPCA such as a 401 Certification, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) construction stormwater permit, a NPDES/SDS wastewater permit, and possibly an air permit.
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources / Travis Germundson	Information about existing wetland mitigation sites, conservation practices and other Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT)/ Jennie Ross	Information about highway crossing requirements, permitting and other MnDOT issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Phone and email conversation with Tom Streiff regarding crossing of Trunk Highway 14 and Trunk Highway 63.
MnDOT/ Stacy Kotch	Information about highway crossing requirements, permitting and other MnDOT issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	See above.
Minnesota Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)/ Kelly Gragg-Johnson	Information about the cultural and historic resources, approvals and other SHPO issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Sarah Beimers via mail. In her response she recommended that a Phase IA archaeological assessment be completed for this Project. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. She also stated that they will reconsider the need for

Agency/Recipient	Information Requested	Response
		survey if the Project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. This comment letter did not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties.
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/ Jamie Schrenzel	Information about DNR properties, threatened/endangered species and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
DNR/ Randall Doneen	Information about DNR properties, threatened/endangered species and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
DNR Central Region Office/ Keith Parker	Information about the State Game Refuge, DNR lands and other DNR issues that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Received correspondence from Brooke Haworth (DNR Environmental Assessment Ecologist – Central Region) via email and phone. DNR provided a list of the owned/managed lands that should be avoided, location of high biological diversity site for avoidance, sensitive features to consider/avoid (calcareous fens, karst features, public waters, biodiversity sites, wetlands, and native plant communities), recommendation to obtain Natural Heritage Inventory System (NHIS) data review, and list of potential licenses that may be required.
Olmsted County/ Richard G. Delvin	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas, and other county concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	A letter was sent in response from the Director of Public Works/County Engineer, Michael T. Sheehan. The letter stated "No Comments."
Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department/ Mitzi Baker	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other county or city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Sandi Goslee, Principal Planner for Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department, sent an email July 2, 2014. The email included a number of documents for consideration while identifying potential routes. Included in the attached documents was a PowerPoint presentation that reviews a number of land use, environmental, and transportation concerns that their staff had identified in the study area.
Rochester Township/ Gary Swenson	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Marion Township/ Janet Hoffmann	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Cascade Township/	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that	No response received

Agency/Recipient	Information Requested	Response
Michael Brown	may be helpful in selecting a route.	
Kalmar Township/ Terry Behrens	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Rock Dell Township/ Betsy Kleinwort	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
High Forest Township/ Willie Dux	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	A call was received from this township on June 20, 2014 and an MERC representative informed the caller that they were looking at routing a new pipeline somewhere in the study area listed on the map and that we are seeking input the township may have regarding routing the pipeline.
Pleasant Grove Township/ Bev Harris	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
Salem Township/ Sharon Petersen	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Rick Lutzi, a board member for Salem Township and landowner called to comment. He asked about the public meeting and indicated that the pipeline route seems more practical than a new route down 70 th .
Township Cooperative Planning Association/ Roger Ihrke	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other township concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
City of Rochester/ Stevan Kvenvold	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received
City of Byron/ Mary Blair-Hoeft	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	Janna Monosmith responded to the letter via email. In the email she stated that Byron identifies some of the study area, specifically the land north of Trunk Highway 14 and West of County Road 3, in its Land Use Plan. Some of this area has been annexed into the City and is being developed and some of this land area is slated to be developed in the future. The City's Land Use Plan does not include area south of Trunk Highway 14 and County Road 5.
City of Stewartville/ Bill Schimmel	Information about future development plans, sensitive areas and other city concerns that may be helpful in selecting a route.	No response received

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From: [Patton, Bob \(MDA\)](#)
To: dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com
Cc: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#); [Moynihan, Meg \(MDA\)](#)
Subject: Dpt of Ag_20140627_1_Rochester natural gas pipeline
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 5:37:22 PM
Attachments: [Certified Organic Farmers-Olmstead.pdf](#)

Mr. Johnson:

In response to your letter of June 17th, I have included a list of certified organic farmers in Olmstead County. If you have questions about the list, please contact Meg Moynihan at 651-201-6616 or Meg.Moynihan@state.mn.us. Meg suggests that you also consult the website www.draiftwatch.org.

If you would like to discuss an agricultural mitigation plan for the project, please let me know. I am out next week, but will be back in the office July 8.

Thanks and please let me know if you have questions.

Bob Patton

Robert Patton, AICP

Supervisor, Energy and Environment Section
Agricultural Marketing and Development Division
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155-2538
Ph: 651-201-6226



The following list of certified organic farms (operator mailing addresses) is based on their participation in voluntary Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) organic programs and on information supplied by organic certifying agencies and the National Organic Program. The MDA does not require organic farmers to register with the State. Farms that are exempt from the requirement to certify and farms in transition to organic do not appear on this list. In addition, there may be other certified operations that do not appear here. For more information, call 651-201-6012.

Please be advised that any written or verbal contact with persons/companies on the accompanying list may not state nor imply that the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has any knowledge of, supports or endorses any service, product, program, or project.

**Certified Organic Farmers
Olmsted County, Minnesota
6-26-14**

firstname	lastname	orgn	addrline1	city	state	zipcode
Kenneth	Donovan	Donovan Farm	5827 Salem Rd	Rochester	MN	55902-8827
Lauren	Donovan		SW	Rochester	MN	55902
Charles	Henry	Minnawana Farms	3487 60th Ave SW	Rochester	MN	55902
Elizabeth	Heublein	TRECC	17838 25th St SE	Dover	MN	55929
Don &			17434 Co Rd 37	Altura	MN	55910
David	Johnston	Johnston Honey	1221 Westhill Dr	Rochester	MN	55902
Rodney	Morlock	Morlock Farms	9987 Co 20 SE	Stewartville	MN	55976
Raymond & Mark	Nelson	Your Prairie Son Organic Farm	2335 60th St SE	Rochester	MN	55904
Steven	Trogstad	Triple T Organics	11429 Mill Creek Rd SE	Chatfield	MN	55923
Jerome	Walch	Four Sisters' Farm	2447 105th St NE	Rochester	MN	55906
John	Wegman	Wegman Organics	1121 Co Rd 10 NE	Dover	MN	55929
Daniel & Heather	White		1506 1st St East	Stewartville	MN	55976-1050

From: [Johnson, Darrin M](#)
To: [Jensen, Patrice \(MPCA\)](#)
Cc: [Affeldt, Craig \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: MPCA_20140627_RE: Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline
Date: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:43:50 AM

Ms. Jensen:

Thank you for your response. At this stage, we are seeking any preliminary input you may have regarding the study area in general. That will help us to rule out some potential routes. We realize that there will be a more intensive review on your and other resource agencies' parts once we have potential routes selected.

Darrin M. Johnson

Environmental Consultant | Environmental Services | Integrys Business Support, LLC

715-345-7509

715-697-3130 *cell*

715-345-7505 *fax*

dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com

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Providing support for Integrys Energy Group, Integrys Energy Services, Integrys Transportation Fuels, Michigan Gas Utilities, Minnesota Energy Resources, North Shore Gas, Peoples Gas, Upper Peninsula Power Company, Wisconsin River Power Company, and Wisconsin Public Service.

From: Jensen, Patrice (MPCA) [mailto:patrice.jensen@state.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 8:21 AM
To: Johnson, Darrin M
Cc: Affeldt, Craig (MPCA)
Subject: Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline

Mr. Johnson – The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Environmental Review Program, has received your request dated June 17, 2014, for comments and information regarding the proposed Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline project. Without having more information about possible route avenues you are reviewing, our current comments will be limited. We also would need more time than a week to study your proposed routes and the areas of environmental concern these routes may be intersecting.

Given that this is a natural gas line transmission, possibly the greatest risk is due to explosion; however, natural gas condensate can be released from these lines, as well. You will want to look at routes that are not in close proximity to residential areas and organic farming areas. Proposed routes should address the need for access in close proximity to a pipeline in order to reach an area where a release could occur so that additional damages can be prevented.

Permits you will likely need from the MPCA include a 401 Certification (if the pipeline would cross waters of the state), a National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System/State Disposal System (NPDES/SDS) construction stormwater permit, a NPDES/SDS wastewater permit (if hydrostatic

testing is conducted), and possibly an air permit. You will likely also need a Section 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if the pipeline crosses waters of the state. You should also check with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. You may need permits such as a utility crossing license or a public waters work permit. It is likely that the county and/or city may have permits, as well.

When looking at routes, wetlands and waterways should be avoided; however, if these would have to be crossed, for wetlands, look at places where access would be available. For waterways, make sure your crossing would be perpendicular to the stream/river.

If you have any further questions, please contact me.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Division of Ecological and Water Resources
1200 Warner Road
Saint Paul, MN 55106-6793



August 8, 2014

Transmitted via Electronic Mail

Ms. Lydia Nelson
HDR, Inc.
700 Xenia Avenue South, Ste. 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Ms. Nelson,

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the early coordination information provided by Minnesota Energy Resources regarding routing options for the proposed Rochester natural gas pipeline project (Project). We offer the following comments for your consideration.

Route alternatives that avoid DNR administered lands should be developed. DNR administered lands include Wildlife Management Areas, Scientific and Natural Areas, State Parks, Aquatic Management Areas, and State Trails. There are not many of these within the Project area, but please note Keller WMA, R J Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, and a Minnesota Water Trail on stretches of the Zumbro River. Additional conservation lands exist: a Railroad Rights-of-Way Prairie located in T107-R15-S35+36, and a Reinvest in Minnesota conservation easement in T106-R15-S24.

Route alternatives that avoid lands of high conservation value should also be avoided. The early coordination map correctly identifies Sites of high and moderate Biodiversity Significance (SBS). SBS have varying levels of native biodiversity and are ranked based on the relative significance of this biodiversity at a statewide level. Sites ranked as Outstanding contain the best occurrences of the rarest species, the most outstanding examples of the rarest native plant communities, and/or the largest, most intact functional landscapes present in the state. The SBS in this area are associated with native plant communities identified by the Minnesota Biological Survey (MBS), each of which has an associated conservation status rank from S1 (critically imperiled) to S5 (apparently secure).

There is an area of particularly high biological diversity in T106-R14-S17+18. This area is associated with the riparian corridor of the Zumbro River and Mayowood Lake, and contains NPC floodplain and terrace forests types with conservation status ranks of S2 (imperiled) and S3 (vulnerable). There are also rare species records of various ranks in that vicinity.

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DNR Information: 651-296-6157

1-888-646-6367

651-296-5484

1-800-657-3929

Another area of concern involves a potential approach to the Interconnection Point 1B. Approaching the point from the west and south are a number of sensitive features, including calcareous fens (identified as Rochester 23 and Marion 30), karst features (sinkholes), Sites of moderate Biodiversity Significance, public waters (Willow Creek and an unnamed stream), associated floodplain NWI wetlands (seasonally flooded flats and shrub swamps), native plant wetland communities (Seepage Meadow/Carr-Tussock Sedge Subtype with rank S3-vulnerable and Wet Seepage Prairie-Southern with rank S1-critically imperiled), and rare species records. Negotiating through this area will require close coordination with DNR staff to avoid impacts to sensitive natural resources.

Olmsted County has a number of calcareous fens that are protected by Minnesota Statute 103G.223. Calcareous fens are highly sensitive to groundwater disruption and surface water contamination. Impacts that might affect fens directly or indirectly through disruption to water sources must be avoided. Calcareous fen records do exist within the project area. In addition, there are many karst features (springs and sinkholes) documented throughout the County. The approximate locations of these features can be downloaded from the MN DNR Data Deli website: <http://deli.dnr.state.mn.us/>. This information should be used to plan a route that avoids these points.

A number of National Wetland Inventory (NWI) wetlands are located within the project area. These are regulated by the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and subject to WCA processes. Some of these may qualify as “rare natural communities” under Minnesota Rule 8420.0515, Subpart 3, which states that a wetland replacement plan for activities that modify a rare natural community must be denied if the local government unit determines that the proposed activities will permanently adversely affect the natural community. The NHIS review discussed previously will assist in identifying these specially protected wetlands. If you have any questions regarding this provision of the WCA, please contact Doug Norris, the DNR Wetlands Program Coordinator, at 651-259-5125, doug.norris@state.mn.us.

When route alternatives have been narrowed to a general corridor, the DNR requests that a Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS) review be conducted to determine the locations of rare species and rare natural resource features. The NHIS is continually updated as new information becomes available and would include current records and surveys. An NHIS review is considered valid if performed within one year of project implementation. The NHIS Data Request form and rate information can be accessed on the DNR website at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nhnrp/nhis.html>. Please refer to **ERDB project number 20150007** when requesting this review. Alternatively, you may perform your own review and submit it to the Endangered Species Review Coordinator for concurrence: Lisa Joyal, 651-259-5109, lisa.joyal@state.mn.us. If it is determined that the Project will include unavoidable impacts to rare species or rare features identified by the NHIS review, coordination with Lisa Joyal is required regarding procedures and protocols to address potential takings.

Utility licenses will be required from the Division of Lands and Minerals for crossings of all public waters and public lands. The creeks and rivers in southeastern Minnesota are considered

important fisheries. Utility license conditions may include work exclusion dates for fisheries protection and requirements for particular BMPs to protect water quality. Any de-watering activities associated with construction will require a temporary de-watering appropriations public waters permit issued by DNR area hydrology staff.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide early coordination for this Project. We suggest you continue to coordinate with DNR as the Project develops. As the corridor footprint is further refined, coordination with area staff can provide local knowledge that will be helpful in avoiding and mitigating impacts to natural resources. I will be happy to assist you in coordination with area staff.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Brooke

Brooke Haworth
Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Central Region
MnDNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
1200 Warner Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-259-5755
Email: Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us

ERDB project: 20150007

From: [Schubbe, Jonathan](#)
To: Brooke.haworth@state.mn.us
Cc: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
Subject: DNR_HDR_20140815_MCBS Site Rochester 24 Overview Map
Date: Friday, August 15, 2014 1:44:57 PM
Attachments: [MCBS Rochester24 11x17L 20140815.pdf](#)

Hello Brooke,

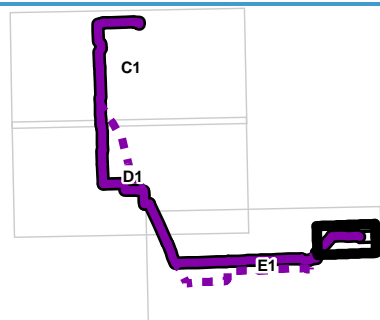
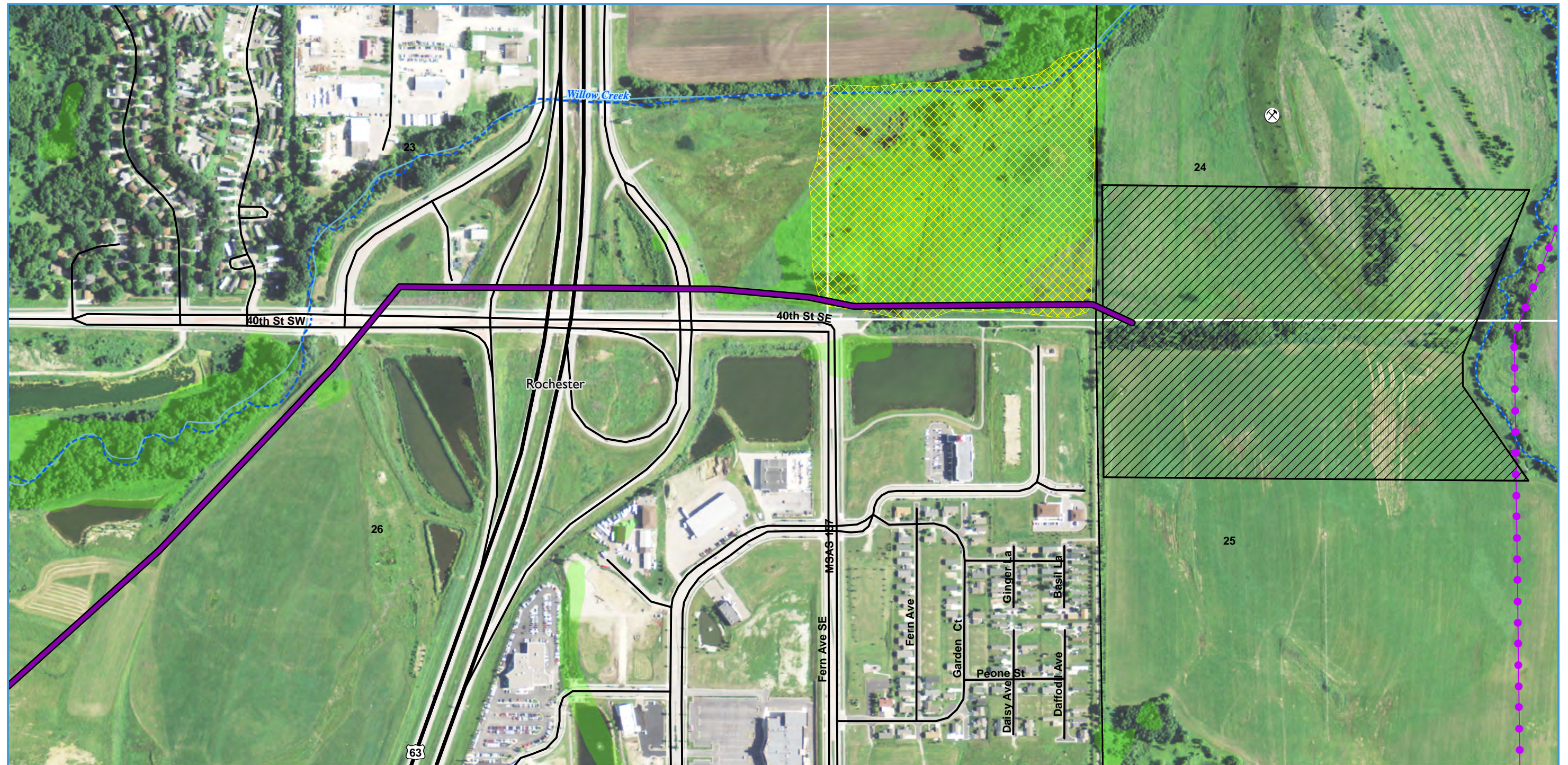
Thank you for your time this afternoon to discuss this MCBS site. I apologize my GIS screenshot did not make it through in my previous email. Please see the attached pdf as a reference to our preferred route in relation to the MCBS site.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions.

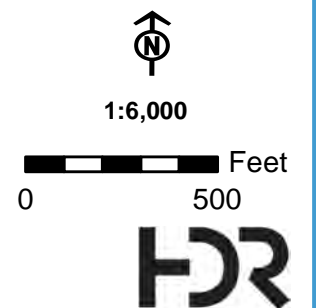
Thanks again,

Jon Schubbe
Biologist

HDR
701 Xenia Ave South - Suite 600
Minneapolis, MN 55416
D 763.278.5975
jschubbe@hdrinc.com



- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interconnection Point — Preferred Route - - - Proposed Alternate Route ▨ Project Endpoint - - - City / Township Boundary ■ Substation — 161kV AC Transmission Line | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring ○ Sinkhole ⊗ Mine Ⓢ School ⦿ FCC Tower — Railroad — Gas Pipeline — Liquid Pipeline | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▨ PWI Basin ▨ PWI Wetland - - - PWI Stream ■ Waterbody — River / Stream ■ NWI Wetland | MCBS Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▨ Below ▨ Moderate ▨ High ▨ Outstanding |
|--|--|--|---|



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From: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
To: [Tom Strieff \(thomas.streiff@state.mn.us\)](mailto:thomas.streiff@state.mn.us)
Cc: [Tuohey, Sean](#)
Subject: MnDOT_20140623_Integrays Rochester Project
Date: Monday, June 23, 2014 4:51:50 PM
Attachments: [Routes_8x11_P_hwy_crossings20140619.pdf](#)

Tom,

Per our conversation today, see attached draft of our potential routes across TH 14 and MN 63. I've labeled each crossing so that we can discuss any concerns/ideas you might have regarding how to pick the best locations. Suggest that you zoom to 400% to see more clearly.

Sean and I will give you a call in the morning to discuss further.

Thanks!

Lydia

[Lydia Nelson](#), PSS

Project Manager/Environmental Scientist

HDR

701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600

Minneapolis, MN 55416

[D 763.278.5909](tel:763.278.5909) [M 763.226.1450](tel:763.226.1450)

lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

Phone Notes

Date: June 23 & 24, 2014

Project: MERC Rochester Pipeline

Call To: Tom Streiff, MnDOT

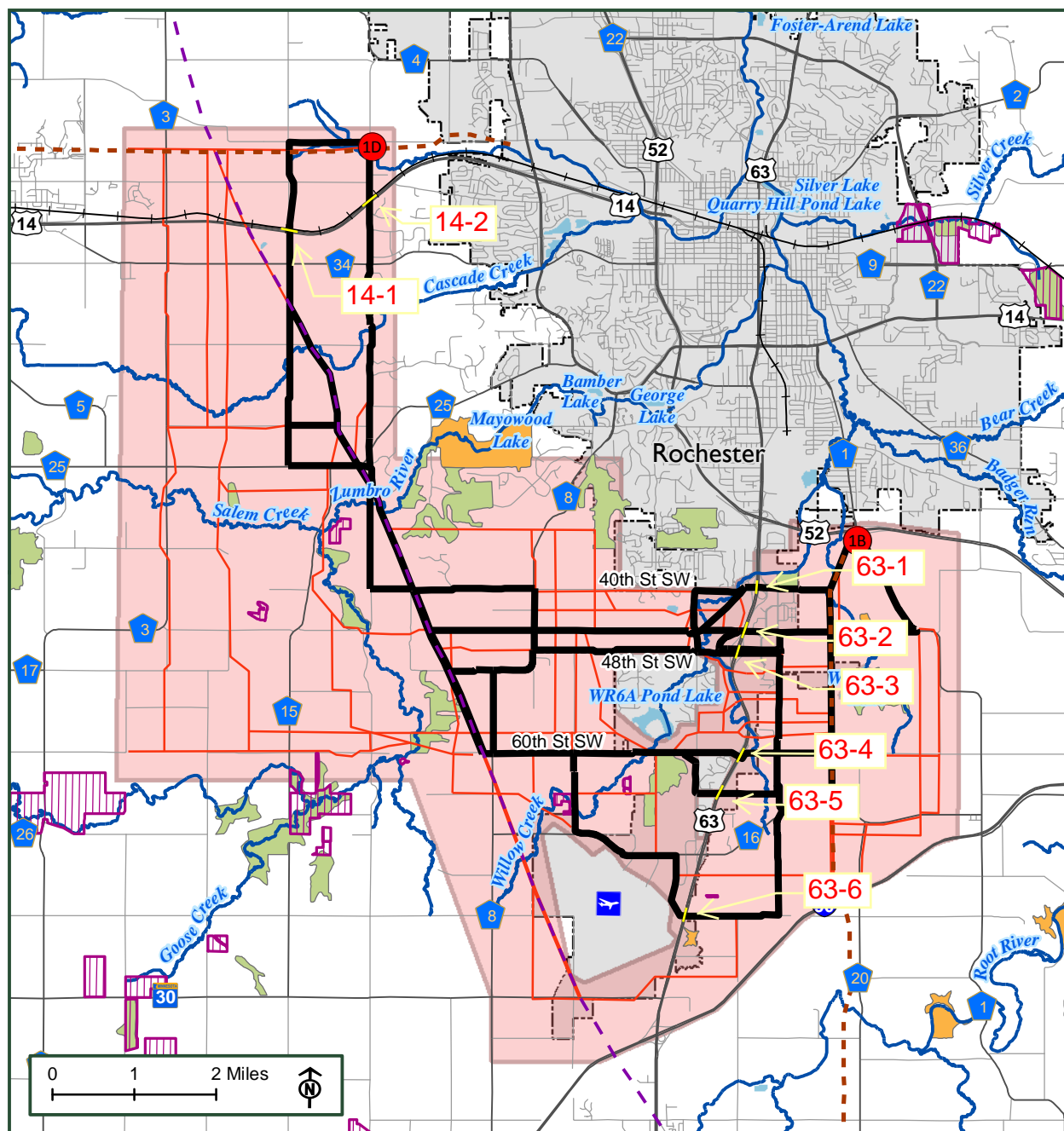
507-286-7592

From: Lydia Nelson & Sean Tuohey

Subject: Highway Crossings

Called Tom to discuss potential crossings at TH 14 and MN 63. Provided him a graphic identifying the current potential crossings, two across TH 14 and six across MN 63. Following is summary of our conversations.

- Not concerned about location of crossing, i.e. at frontage road or at interchanges. Would probably cost more to cross at interchanges because would need to direct bore more crossings.
- MnDOT has "Accommodation Policy" accessible on web site. Provides general requirements for utility crossings.
- At interchanges – prefer that you stay outside of ramps.
- If 50 feet or closer to structures, then Central Office Bridge would need to do review; this can take 4-6 weeks.
- Ann Driver leads permitting out of Central Office.
- Stacy Koch leads environmental review/coordination with PUC out of Central Office.
- TH 14 eastern crossing (14-2 on map) – county is planning future interchange, so this may not be best place to cross.
- No specific issues for any of the MN 63 crossings.
- Engineering would need to follow industry standards as far as using casing or not – regarding pipeline safety.
- Depth is 3 feet below ditches and/or 5 feet below roadway.
- CR 16 – Redoing bridge/interchange, so would not recommend crossing.
- Action Item – Tom will talk to Ann Driver to give her a heads up about the project. We can contact her or Tom if we have other questions.



Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| — Rejected Route Segment | — PWI Stream | — Railroad |
| — Route Segment | — Waterbody/NWI Wetland | |
| — Study Area | — State Managed Land/Easement | |
| ● Interconnection Point | — Moderate Biodiversity Significance Site | |
| Existing Pipeline | — High Biodiversity Significance Site | |
| — Natural Gas | — City / Township Boundary | |
| — Oil | — RST Airport | |

Path: \\mspe-gis-file\gisproj\050_den\232026_MERC\map_docs\Routes_8x11_P.mxd

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

July 1, 2014

Mr. Darrin Johnson
Environmental Lead
Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation
2665 145th Street West
PO Box 455
Rosemount, MN 55068-0455

RE: Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project – route to be determined
Olmsted County
SHPO No. 2014-2193

Dear Mr. Johnson :

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above project. It is being reviewed pursuant to the responsibilities given to the Minnesota Historical Society by the Minnesota Historic Sites Act and the Minnesota Field Archaeology Act.

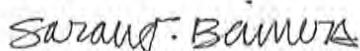
We recommend that a Phase IA archaeological assessment be completed for this project. If, as a result of this assessment, a Phase I archaeological survey is recommended, this survey should be completed. The survey must meet the requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Identification and Evaluation, and should include an evaluation of National Register eligibility for any properties that are identified. For a list of consultants who have expressed an interest in undertaking such surveys, please visit the website preservationdirectory.mnhs.org, and select "Archaeologists" in the "Search by Specialties" box.

We will reconsider the need for survey if the project area can be documented as previously surveyed or disturbed. Any previous survey work must meet contemporary standards. **Note:** plowed areas and right-of-way are not automatically considered disturbed. Archaeological sites can remain intact beneath the plow zone and in undisturbed portions of the right-of-way.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal license or permit, it should be submitted to our office by the responsible federal agency.

If you have any questions regarding our review, please contact Kelly Gragg-Johnson, Review and Compliance Specialist, at (651) 259-3455.

Sincerely,



Sarah J. Beimers, Manager
Government Programs and Compliance

From: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
To: [Goslee Sandra](#)
Cc: [Darrin Johnson \(dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com\)](mailto:dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com)
Subject: RE: RO_OLM_20140702_Minnesota Energy Resources Pipeline Extension
Date: Monday, July 07, 2014 3:31:27 PM

Thanks for the info Sandi. We will incorporate into our routing files.

Lydia

Lydia Nelson, PSS

D 763.278.5909 **M** 763.226.1450

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Goslee Sandra [mailto:goslee.sandi@CO.OLMSTED.MN.US]
Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 3:40 PM
To: dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com; Nelson, Lydia C.
Cc: Reiter Charlie; Ellerbusch Jeff; Baker Mitzi
Subject: RO_OLM_20140702_Minnesota Energy Resources Pipeline Extension

Darrin and Lydia,

I have put a number of documents on our FTP site for you to consider as you identify potential routes for Minnesota Energy Resources' natural gas pipeline extension. The files are just too large to email. To access this data, follow these steps:

1. Go to <ftp://olmftp.co.olmsted.mn.us/Planning/Outgoing/SGoslee/>
2. The username is ftp-planning and the password is [ftp2planning](#)
3. Copy the MinnEnergyPipelineReview folder onto your hard drive or network drive

In this folder you will find a PowerPoint presentation that reviews a number of land use, environmental, and transportation concerns that our staff have identified in the study area (just zoom in to better read the details of the slides), including images of adopted official maps. I have also embedded links to various documents on our website that will assist your analysis. Please keep in mind that I cannot provide maps of features delineated in our County Biological Survey; I did see you noted areas of biodiversity on your study map and will say that some of those also contain noted natural features. Please contact the MnDNR if you need further information on that. The folder also contains a few pdfs of transportation documents that will be of use to you.

Should you have any questions on the transportation issues, please contact Charlie Reiter at reiter.charlie@co.olmsted.mn.us or (507) 328-7136. Any other questions can be directed my way.

Have a great holiday weekend!

Sandi Goslee

Sandi Goslee, Principal Planner | Rochester-Olmsted Planning Department | 2122 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100 |

From: [Collins Lori](#)
To: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
Subject: Olmsted Co Public Works_20140702_Rochester Natural Gas Project Comments
Date: Wednesday, July 02, 2014 8:46:45 AM
Attachments: [Rochester Natural Gas Project Comments.pdf](#)

Dear Ms. Nelson,

Attached are the comments from Olmsted County Public Works.

Thank you.

Lori



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
2122 CAMPUS DR SE - SUITE 200
ROCHESTER MN 55904-4744
www.olmstedpublicworks.com
507.328.7070

July 1, 2014

HDR

Attn: Lydia Nelson

Email: lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com

Dear Ms. Nelson:

The Public Works Department has reviewed the proposed Rochester natural gas pipeline project.

No Comments

Sincerely,

Michael T. Sheehan
Director of Public Works/County Engineer

MTS/lc

cc: Planning Department



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

From: [Johnson, Darrin M](#)
To: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
Subject: High___ Twp_20140620_Call from Township
Date: Friday, June 20, 2014 1:12:16 PM

Lydia,

I got a call from the town of High ----- (couldn't make out the rest). I let him know we are looking at routing a new pipeline somewhere in the study area listed on the map and that we are seeking input the town may have regarding routing the pipeline. They have a meeting on July 1 and will discuss with the board at that time. 507-533-5826 was the phone number.

Darrin M. Johnson

Environmental Consultant | Environmental Services | Integrys Business Support, LLC

715-345-7509

715-697-3130 *cell*

715-345-7505 *fax*

dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com

www.integrysgroup.com

Providing support for Integrys Energy Group, Integrys Energy Services, Integrys Transportation Fuels, Michigan Gas Utilities, Minnesota Energy Resources, North Shore Gas, Peoples Gas, Upper Peninsula Power Company, Wisconsin River Power Company, and Wisconsin Public Service.

From: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
To: [Darrin Johnson \(dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com\)](#)
Cc: [Egtvedt, Gregory W \(GWEgtvedt@integrysgroup.com\)](#); [Tuohey, Sean](#); [Hunker, Brian M.](#)
Subject: Integrys - Call from Salem Twp & Landowner
Date: Monday, July 14, 2014 11:45:31 AM

Darrin,

Wanted to provide summary of conversation with Rick Lutzi. He is on the board for Salem Twp and a landowner on the oil pipeline in Sections 12 and 13 along CR 25. Our alternative route would go through his property.

Rick asked about a public meeting. I indicated that Integrys will hold a meeting in late July or early August, after we hold meeting with PUC. Explained that PUC will need to permit the project. He should look for a postcard or letter from us announcing the meeting.

Rick indicated that the pipeline route seems more practical than a new route down 70th. I explained that we would need additional right-of-way. He seemed fine with that.

Lydia

Lydia Nelson, PSS

Project Manager/Environmental Scientist

HDR

701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600

Minneapolis, MN 55416

 763.278.5909  763.226.1450

lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: [Nelson, Lydia C.](#)
To: [Janna Monosmith](#)
Cc: dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com
Subject: RE: City of Byron_20140627_Fwd: Proposed Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline
Date: Tuesday, July 01, 2014 2:00:56 PM

Janna,

Thank you for your response to our information request. At this time, it appears that our routes will not be located within the City of Byron. We will keep this email in our files in case the routes change and we need to contact you for additional information.

Best regards,

Lydia

Lydia Nelson, PSS

D 763.278.5909 **M** 763.226.1450

hdrinc.com/follow-us

From: Janna Monosmith [mailto:jmonosmith@byronmn.com]
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2014 12:52 PM
To: dmjohnson@integrysgroup.com; Nelson, Lydia C.
Subject: City of Byron_20140627_Fwd: Proposed Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline

Darrin/Lydia,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Rochester natural gas pipeline project.

The identified route includes the Eastern edge of the City of Byron.

Byron identifies some of the study area, specifically the land north of Highway 14 and West of County Road 3, in it's Land Use Plan. Some of this area has been annexed into the City and is being developed, some of this land area is slated to be developed in the future. The City's Land Use Plan does not include area south of Highway 14 and County Road 5.

Please let me know if you have questions or need further details.

Thanks,
Janna

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