



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Ecological & Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4040

January 19, 2021

Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul MN 55101

RE: The Application of Petroleum Fuels Company for a Gas Pipeline Routing Permit for the Pine Bend Pipeline Project in Dakota County. PUC Docket Number: IP-7042/PPL-20-872

Dear Public Advisor,

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff have reviewed the site permit application for the Pine Bend Pipeline Project in Dakota County. Our agency offers the following comments regarding the completeness of the application and other concerns related to the project.

State Listed Bird Species

WSB conducted a query of the Natural Heritage Information System (NHIS). Our agency typically requires a request for concurrence to confirm the findings of the applicant's NHIS review. The applicant's NHIS review identified records of a state listed endangered species (Loggerhead shrike) and two species of special concern (lark sparrow and Bell's vireo) within a 1-mile search radius. If vegetation clearing of the 50-foot right-of-way will occur during the nesting season (from April through July), then avian surveys may be required. Please contact Lisa Joyal, the DNR's Endangered Species Review Coordinator (lisa.joyal@state.mn.us, 651-259-5109) to coordinate any surveys.

Other Concerns

The DNR recommends the use of BWSR-approved, native, weed-free seed mixes for revegetation.

It is our understanding that because January 18 was a holiday, comments will be accepted until 4:30 today, January 19. If you have questions about our agency's comments, you may reach me at cynthia.warzecha@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

/S/ Cynthia Warzecha
Energy Projects Planner

CC: Ray Kirsch, Minnesota Department of Commerce
Cezar Panait, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
Melissa Collins, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources