

January 4, 2018

Via Electronic Filing

Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

**Re: Certificate of Completion for Great Plains Natural Gas Co.'s Fergus Falls Pipeline Replacement Project
Docket No. G004/GP-16-685**

Dear Mr. Wolf:

On August 30, 2017, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) issued its order granting a partial exemption and issuing a pipeline routing permit to Great Plains Natural Gas Co. (“Great Plains”), a Division of Montana Dakota Utilities Resources Group Inc. (“MDU”), for its Fergus Falls Pipeline Replacement Project (“Project”) in Ottertail County, Minnesota.¹

On July 25, 2018, Great Plains filed a “Certificate of Completion” in the above-referenced docket to inform the Commission that the construction of the Project was completed in compliance with all listed Permit Conditions under Section 5.0 of the Route Permit and that the Project was placed into service on July 23, 2018. This filing noted that Great Plains received no complaints during construction of the Project.²

On October 17, 2018, as required by Section 10.0 of the Route Permit and Minn. R. 7852.3900, Great Plains filed written certification that construction and restoration of the Project was completed in compliance with all listed Permit Conditions under Section 5.0 of the Route Permit.³

On October 17, 2018, in compliance with Section 10.0 of the Route Permit, Great Plains also filed with the Commission as-built construction drawings of the pipeline and associated facilities.⁴

On October 17, 2018, in accordance with Section 10.5 of the Route Permit, Great Plains confirmed it provided Commission Staff with “geo-spatial information ... for the pipeline and associated facilities.”⁵

¹ See eDockets, Document ID. [20178-135096-01](#).

² See eDockets, Document ID. [20187-145187-01](#).

³ See eDockets, Document ID. [201810-147131-01](#).

⁴ See eDockets, Document ID. [201810-147131-02](#), [201810-147131-03](#), and [201810-147131-04](#)

⁵ See eDockets, Document ID. [201810-147131-01](#).

EERA staff monitored construction activities by reviewing weekly progress reports and accompanying construction and restoration photos, and other compliance filings. Staff discussed issues with the applicant as necessary.

EERA staff has also reviewed the as-built construction drawings of the pipeline and associated facilities and finds them satisfactory in all respects.⁶

A December 27, 2018, email to the Commission from Mike Oehler, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Acting Area Wildlife Manager commented:

In regards to the restoration of natural areas, the Commission should accept the certificate of completion, but it should be acknowledged that there is minimal fence work yet to be completed. About 10 wood/steel posts were removed from a grazing fence to facilitate pipeline construction, but due to weather issues this fall, have not yet been replaced. Area DNR staff will work with Great Plains engineers to ensure that this work is completed as soon as possible in spring 2019.⁷

EERA has advised representatives of Great Plains of the need to file documentation affirming that landowners affected by Project construction activities have signed releases indicating that the right-of-way on their property has been restored to the conditions that existed before construction.

When Great Plains receives and files documentation of landowner releases, EERA believes that Great Plains will have satisfied all Commission requirement and that the Commission should accept the Certification of Completion and terminate jurisdiction over the Permit issued to Great Plains. EERA is not aware of any costs or reimbursements that are due.

If there are any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

/s/ Larry B. Hartman

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⁶See eDockets, Document ID. [201810-147131-02](#), [201810-147131-03](#), and [201810-147131-04](#).

⁷ See eDockets, Document ID. [20191-148837-01](#).