

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

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota appreciates the opportunity to offer comments on the application of Petroleum Fuels Company for a Gas Pipeline Routing Permit for the Pine Bend Pipeline Project in Dakota County.

LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota represent 12,000 unionized construction workers statewide including many workers in and around Dakota County, Minnesota. We believe that the proposed Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) pipeline can benefit both our members and the public at large by creating and sustaining high-quality construction and maintenance jobs. It is our understanding that the project owner intends to use skilled local union labor to build the project, and we appreciate their commitment to maximize the project's local benefits by ensuring that skilled local workers are hired to build it.

We believe this project has the potential to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Minnesota by investing in the development of critical RNG infrastructure. RNG infrastructure projects like this are critical to help Minnesota's utilities capture, transport and use biogas from farms and municipal waste facilities to reduce associated carbon emissions. Such projects provide a path to bring jobs and economic opportunity to Minnesota by creating new markets for waste methane, while encouraging new investment in technologies and infrastructure needed to capture and transport renewable fuel.

The creation of high-quality construction jobs is not the primary objective of energy policy in Minnesota, but it is an important factor to consider, especially in our effort to recover from the COVID 19 induced economic crisis. Minnesota construction workers are hurting and urgently need good work opportunities.

We believe the Commission should accept this application to begin the review process. Further, we support timely review of this application to maximize the potential job creating benefits as we recover from the COVID 19 crisis. If approved, this project will contribute to Minnesota's economic recovery by creating good family-supporting construction jobs, while helping the State of Minnesota meet its ambitious decarbonization goals.

Based on research from New Jersey's utility stimulus program from the last Great Recession, we know that gas pipe and service jobs are among the most effective job creators.¹ On a dollar for dollar basis, gas pipe or service jobs created 62% more jobs compared to electric projects.²

Petroleum Fuels Company's Pine Bend Pipeline Project will advance RNG innovation in Minnesota, help the State meet its ambitious climate goals and create badly needed family-supporting construction jobs. We believe that this application contains the information

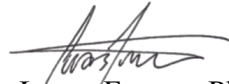
¹ Docket Nos. EO09010049, GO09010050, and ER09110936, Analysis of Appendix B, PSEG, <https://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/boardorders/2011/20110706/7-14-11-2D.pdf>

² Ibid.

required under Minnesota Rules parts 7852.2100 to 7852.3100. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Dated: January 18, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Franco', written over a horizontal line.

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