

STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ROUTE PERMIT  
FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGE [PIPELINE TYPE] PIPELINE  
AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

IN  
[COUNTY]

ISSUED TO  
[PERMITTEE]

PUC DOCKET NO. [Docket Number]

In accordance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216G and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7852 this route permit is hereby issued to:

[PERMITTEE]

[Permittee] is authorized by this route permit to construct [Provide a description of the project authorized by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission].

The pipeline and associated facilities shall be built within the route identified in this permit and as portrayed on the official route maps, and in compliance with the conditions specified in this permit.

Approved and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of [Month, Year]

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

---

Daniel P. Wolf,  
Executive Secretary

## CONTENTS

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| 1.0    | ROUTE PERMIT.....   | 1 |
| 1.1    | Pre-emption.....  | 1 |
| 2.0    | PROJECT DESCRIPTION.....  | 1 |
| 2.1    | Associated Facilities .....   | 1 |
| 2.2    | Project Location.....   | 1 |
| 3.0    | DESIGNATED ROUTE.....   | 1 |
| 3.1    | Permanent Right-of-Way.....   | 2 |
| 3.2    | Temporary Right-of-Way .....  | 2 |
| 3.3    | Right-of-Way Conformance .....  | 2 |
| 4.0    | STATE AND FEDERAL MINIMUM DEPTH OF COVER REQUIREMENTS.....                | 2 |
| 5.0    | GENERAL CONDITIONS .....  | 3 |
| 5.1    | Agricultural Protection Plan [ <i>if applicable</i> ].....                | 3 |
| 5.2    | Environmental Mitigation Plan [ <i>if applicable</i> ].....               | 3 |
| 5.3    | Permit Distribution.....  | 3 |
| 5.4    | Notification .....  | 4 |
| 5.5    | Construction Practices .....  | 4 |
| 5.5.1  | Field Representative.....   | 4 |
| 5.5.2  | Agricultural Monitor and County Inspector Notification Requirements ..... | 4 |
| 5.5.3  | Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions .....      | 5 |
| 5.5.4  | Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements.....            | 5 |
| 5.5.5  | Access to Property for Construction .....                                 | 5 |
| 5.5.6  | Noise.....  | 6 |
| 5.5.7  | Site Sediment and Erosion Control .....                                   | 6 |
| 5.5.8  | Topsoil Protection .....  | 6 |
| 5.5.9  | Soil Compaction.....  | 6 |
| 5.5.10 | Landscape Preservation.....   | 6 |
| 5.5.11 | Sensitive Areas .....   | 7 |
| 5.5.12 | Wetlands and Water Resources.....   | 7 |
| 5.5.13 | Vegetation Removal and Protection.....                                    | 7 |
| 5.5.14 | Application of Pesticides.....  | 8 |
| 5.5.15 | Invasive Species .....  | 8 |
| 5.5.16 | Noxious Weeds .....   | 8 |
| 5.5.17 | Roads (Public and Private).....   | 8 |
| 5.5.18 | Archaeological and Historic Resources .....                               | 9 |
| 5.5.19 | Livestock .....   | 9 |

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 5.5.20 Security.....                                    | 9  |
| 5.5.21 Restoration .....                                | 9  |
| 5.5.22 Cleanup.....                                     | 10 |
| 5.5.23 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes.....              | 10 |
| 5.5.24 Damages .....                                    | 10 |
| 5.6 Other Requirements .....                            | 10 |
| 5.6.1 Other Permits and Regulations.....                | 10 |
| 6.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS.....                             | 10 |
| 7.0 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION.....                          | 12 |
| 8.0 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES .....                          | 12 |
| 9.0 PIPELINE SAFETY .....                               | 12 |
| 10.0 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.....                       | 13 |
| 10.1 Plan and Profile.....                              | 13 |
| 10.2 Periodic Status Reports .....                      | 13 |
| 10.3 Notification to Commission.....                    | 13 |
| 10.4 As-Builts .....                                    | 14 |
| 10.5 GPS Data.....                                      | 14 |
| 11.0 RIGHT OF ENTRY .....                               | 14 |
| 12.0 PERMIT AMENDMENT.....                              | 14 |
| 13.0 PERMIT MODIFICATION OR SUSPENSION.....             | 14 |
| 14.0 PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION CERTIFICATE ..... | 15 |

**FIGURES**

Official Site Maps

**ATTACHMENTS**

Complaint Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

Compliance Filing Procedures for Permitted Energy Facilities

## 1.0 ROUTE PERMIT

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) hereby issues this route permit to [Permittee Name] (Permittee) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216G and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7852. This permit authorizes [Permittee Name] to construct [Provide a brief description of the project as authorized by the Commission], and as identified in the attached route permit maps, hereby incorporated into this document.

### 1.1 Pre-emption

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216G.02, subd. 4, this permit shall be the sole approval required to be obtained by the Permittee for construction of the pipeline facilities and this permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government.

## 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

[Provide a description of the project as authorized by the Commission]

### 2.1 Associated Facilities

[Provide a detailed description of the associated facilities authorized by the Commission]

### 2.2 Project Location

[Describe the location of the project including details such as the county, state, city, and townships, as appropriate]

| County | Township Name | Township | Range | Section |
|--------|---------------|----------|-------|---------|
|        |               |          |       |         |

## 3.0 DESIGNATED ROUTE

The route designated by the Commission in this permit is the route described below and shown on the route maps attached to this permit. The route is generally described as follows:

[Provide detailed description of the authorized route including the route widths and any other specifics relevant to each segment. Also include a reference to the relevant route map to be attached to the permit.]

The identified route widths will provide the Permittee with flexibility for minor adjustments of the specific alignment or right-of-way to accommodate landowner requests and unforeseen conditions. The final alignment (i.e., permanent and maintained rights-of-way) will be located within this designated route unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

### **3.1 Permanent Right-of-Way**

The approved right-of-way width for the project is up to [X] feet *[Describe any right-of-way width variations along the route, as necessary, including that needed for associated facilities]*.

### **3.2 Temporary Right-of-Way**

*[Describe temporary right-of-way widths authorized by permit]*

The Permittee shall limit temporary right-of-way to special construction access needs required outside of the authorized permanent rights-of-way. Temporary right-of-way shall be selected to limit the removal and impacts to vegetation.

### **3.3 Right-of-Way Conformance**

This permit anticipates that the right-of-way will generally conform to the alignment identified on the attached route permit maps unless changes are requested by individual landowners and agreed to by the Permittee or for unforeseen conditions that are encountered or are otherwise provided for by this permit.

Any right-of-way modifications within the designated route shall be located so as to have comparable overall impacts relative to the factors in Minn. R. 7852.1900, as does the right-of-way identified in this permit, and shall be specifically identified and documented in and approved as part of the plan and profile submitted pursuant to Section 8.1 of this permit.

### **4.0 STATE AND FEDERAL MINIMUM DEPTH OF COVER REQUIREMENTS**

Minn. Stat. § 216G.07, subd. 1, requires the pipeline trench to be excavated to a depth that sufficiently allows for at least 54 inches (4.5 feet) of backfill from ground surface to the top of pipeline in all areas where the pipeline crosses the right-of-way of any public drainage facility or any county, town, or municipal street or highway and where the pipeline crosses agricultural land. Where the pipeline crosses the right-of-way of any drainage ditch the pipeline shall be installed with a minimum level cover of not less than 54 inches (4.5 feet) below the authorized depth of the ditch, unless waived in the manner provided in Minn. Stat. § 216G.07, subd. 2 and

3. In agricultural land, the Permittee may seek a depth requirement waiver from the affected landowners to install the pipeline at the same depth as the existing pipelines.

In all cases, the pipeline trench shall be excavated to a depth that sufficiently allows for at least 36 inches (3 feet) of backfill from ground surface to the top of pipeline in accordance with U.S. Department of Transportation regulations (49 CFR 195.248). (49 C.F.R. Part 194)?

## **5.0 GENERAL CONDITIONS**

The Permittee shall comply with the following conditions during pipeline right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the life of this permit.

### **5.1 Agricultural Protection Plan [if applicable]**

The Permittee shall comply with the Agricultural Protection Plan (APP) that is attached to this permit (*Appendix XX*) and incorporated herein. The obligation to comply with the APP as a condition of this permit shall expire with the termination of Commission jurisdiction over this permit as prescribed by Minn. R. 7852.3900, unless otherwise specified in the APP. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) must approve of any amendments to the APP. The Permittee shall file the amended APP with the Commission within 10 days of MDA approval.

### **5.2 Environmental Mitigation Plan [if applicable]**

The Permittee shall comply with the Environmental Mitigation Plan that is attached to this permit (*Appendix XX*) and incorporated herein. The Permittee shall also comply with all additional conditions that may be added as a result of permits issued by other agencies or governmental units.

### **5.3 Permit Distribution**

The Permittee shall within 10 days of receipt of this pipeline route permit from the Commission, send a copy of the permit to the office of each regional development commission of a development region, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, watershed management district, office of the auditor of each county, and the clerk of each city and township crossed by the designated route.

Within 30 days of permit issuance, the Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with a copy of this permit and the complaint procedures. In no case shall the landowner receive this route permit and complaint procedures less than five days prior to the start of construction on

their property. [An affected landowner is any landowner or designee that is within or adjacent to the permitted route.](#)

The Permittee shall provide all affected landowners with complete information about the project keeping them informed throughout the initial survey, right-of-way acquisition, right-of-way preparation, construction, restoration, and future operation and maintenance. As provided by applicable laws and regulations the Permittee shall provide educational materials about the project and any restrictions or dangers associated with the project to landowners within the route whose land is crossed by the pipeline and, upon request, to any interested persons.

#### **5.4 Notification**

The Permittee shall notify landowners or their designee at least 14 days in advance but not greater than 60 days in advance of entering the property, ~~unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.~~

#### **5.5 Construction Practices**

The Permittee shall follow those specific construction practices and material specifications described in *[Permittee Name]* Application to the Commission for a route permit for the *[Project Application Name and Environmental Information Report]*, dated *[Date]*, and the record of the proceedings unless this permit establishes a different requirement in which case this permit shall prevail. The Permittee shall comply with the conditions for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration contained in Minn. R. 7852.3600.

##### **5.5.1 Field Representative**

The Permittee shall designate a field representative responsible for overseeing compliance with the conditions of this permit during construction of the project. This person shall be accessible by telephone or other means during normal business hours throughout site preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration.

The Permittee shall file with the Commission the name, address, email, phone number, and emergency phone number of the field representative 14 days prior to commencing construction. The Permittee shall provide the field representative's contact information to affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons. The Permittee may change the site manager at any time upon notice to the Commission, affected landowners, residents, local government units and other interested persons.

##### **5.5.2 Agricultural Monitor and County Inspector Notification Requirements**

The Permittee shall at least 14 days prior to the start of construction provide notice to all landowners affected by construction with the name, telephone number and email address of the Agricultural Monitor and County inspector designated by the County, if appointed.

#### 5.5.3 Employee Training and Education of Permit Terms and Conditions

The Permittee shall inform all employees, contractors, and other persons involved in construction of the terms and conditions of this permit.

#### 5.5.4 Public Services, Public Utilities, and Existing Easements

During construction, the Permittee shall minimize any disruption to public services or public utilities. To the extent disruptions to public services or public utilities occur these would be temporary and the Permittee will restore service promptly. Where any impacts to utilities have the potential to occur the Permittee will work with both landowners and local agencies to determine the most appropriate mitigation measures if not already considered as part of this permit. The Permittee shall cooperate with all entities that have existing easements or infrastructure within the pipeline route to ensure minimal disturbance to existing or planned developments.

#### 5.5.5 Access to Property for Construction

The Permittee shall obtain all necessary permits authorizing access to public rights-of-way prior to any construction. The Permittee shall obtain approval of the landowners for access to private property prior to any construction. The Permittee shall consult with property owners to identify and address any special problems the landowners may have that are associated with the pipeline prior to any construction.

The Permittee shall work with landowners to provide access to their property, to locate the pipeline on their property to minimize the loss of agricultural land, forest, and wetlands, with due regard for proximity to homes and water supplies, even if the deviations will increase the cost of the pipeline, so long as the landowner's requested relocation does not adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas.

The Permittee shall negotiate agreements with landowners that will give the landowners access to their property; minimize the impact on planned future development of the property; and to assume any additional costs for such development that may be the result of installing roads, driveways and utilities that must cross the right-of-way. The Permittee shall not unreasonably deny a landowner's request to cross the easement to access the landowner's property.



#### 5.5.6 Noise

The Permittee shall comply with noise standards established under Minn. R. 7030.0010 to 7030.0080, ~~at all times at all appropriate locations during operation of the facility~~. Construction and maintenance activities shall be limited to daytime working hours to the extent practicable to ensure nighttime noise level standards will not be exceeded.

#### 5.5.7 Site Sediment and Erosion Control

The Permittee shall implement those erosion prevention and sediment control practices recommended by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Construction Stormwater Program.

The Permittee shall minimize erosion and sedimentation during construction and shall employ perimeter sediment controls, protect exposed soil by promptly planting, seeding, using erosion control blankets and turf reinforcement mats, stabilizing slopes, protecting storm drain inlets, protecting soil stockpiles, and controlling vehicle tracking. Contours shall be graded as required so that all surfaces provide for proper drainage, blend with the natural terrain, and are left in a condition that will facilitate re-vegetation and prevent erosion. All areas disturbed during construction of the facilities shall be returned to pre-construction conditions.

In accordance with MPCA requirements, the Permittee shall obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) Construction Stormwater permit from the MPCA.

#### 5.5.8 Topsoil Protection

The Permittee shall take precautions to minimize mixing of topsoil and subsoil during excavation of the trench for the pipe unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

#### 5.5.9 Soil Compaction

Compaction of agricultural lands by the Permittee must be kept to a minimum and mitigated in accordance with its agricultural protection plan [*if applicable*].

#### 5.5.10 Landscape Preservation

Care shall be used to preserve the natural landscape, minimize tree removal and prevent any unnecessary destruction of the natural surroundings in the vicinity of all pipeline construction and restoration activities.

#### 5.5.11 Sensitive Areas

The Permittee shall stabilize stream banks and other sensitive areas disturbed by pipeline construction in accordance with the requirements of applicable state or federal permits.

#### 5.5.12 Wetlands and Water Resources

Wetlands and riparian areas shall be accessed using the shortest route possible in order to minimize travel through wetland areas and prevent unnecessary impacts. No temporary workspace areas shall be placed within or adjacent to wetlands or water resources, as practicable. To minimize impacts, construction in wetland areas shall occur during frozen ground conditions where practicable and shall be according to permit requirements by the applicable permitting authority. When construction during winter is not possible, wooden or composite mats shall be used to protect wetland vegetation. Soil excavated from the wetlands and riparian areas shall be contained and not placed back into the wetland or riparian area.

Dewatering during periods of excessive precipitation or in areas where the natural groundwater table intersects the pipeline trench will not be directed into wetlands or water bodies. Dewatering discharges will be directed toward well vegetated upland areas. Should discharge activities need to be directed off the right-of-way landowner consent will be obtained and locations will be chosen to minimize impacts. All discharge activities will comply with applicable agency permits or approvals.

Areas disturbed by construction activities shall be restored to pre-construction conditions. Restoration of the wetlands will be performed by Permittee in accordance with the requirements of applicable state and federal permits or laws and landowner agreements.

All requirements of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (wetlands under federal jurisdiction), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (Public Waters/Wetlands), and County (wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act) shall be met.

#### 5.5.13 Vegetation Removal and Protection

The Permittee shall clear the permanent right-of-way and temporary right-of-way preserving to the maximum extent practicable windbreaks, shelterbelts, living snow fences, and vegetation in areas such as trail and stream crossings where vegetative screening may minimize aesthetic

impacts, to the extent that such actions do not impact the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the pipeline and are in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Tree stumps will be removed at the landowner's request or when necessitated due to trench location. The Permittee will dispose of all debris created by clearing at a licensed disposal facility.

#### 5.5.14 Application of Pesticides

The Permittee shall restrict pesticide use to those pesticides and methods of application approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Selective foliage or basal application shall be used when practicable. The Permittee shall contact the landowner or his designee to obtain approval for the use of pesticide prior to any application on their property. The landowner may request that there be no application of pesticides on any part of the right-of-way within the landowner's property. All pesticides shall be applied in a safe and cautious manner so as not to damage crops, orchards, tree farms, or gardens. The Permittee shall provide notice of pesticide application to known beekeepers operating apiaries within three miles of the project site at least 14 days prior to such application.

#### 5.5.15 Invasive Species

The Permittee shall employ best management practices to avoid the potential spread of invasive species on lands disturbed by project construction activities.

#### 5.5.16 Noxious Weeds

The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions against the spread of noxious weeds during all phases of pipeline construction. When utilizing seed to establish temporary and permanent vegetative cover on exposed soil the Permittee shall select site appropriate seed certified to be free of noxious weeds. To the extent possible, the Permittee shall use native seed mixes. The Permittee shall consult with landowners on the selection and use of seed for replanting.

#### 5.5.17 Roads (Public and Private)

Equipment involved in pipeline construction shall be moved into the right-of-way using existing public or private roads unless a temporary road is negotiated with the landowner and approved by the [*Environmental Monitor and the Agricultural Monitor when on agricultural lands*].

Prior to commencement of construction, the Permittee shall identify all state, county or township roads that will be used for the project and shall notify the state, county or township governing body having jurisdiction over the roads to determine if the governmental body needs to inspect the roads prior to use of these roads. The Permittee is responsible for maintenance and repair of roads that will be subject to extra wear and tear due to transportation of equipment and project related materials. The Permittee shall cooperate with county and city road authorities to develop appropriate signage and traffic management during construction.

The Permittee shall promptly repair private roads or lanes damaged when moving equipment or when accessing construction workspace, unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

#### 5.5.18 Archaeological and Historic Resources

The Permittee shall make every effort to avoid impacts to identified archaeological and historic resources when constructing the transmission facility. In the event that a resource is encountered, the Permittee shall contact and consult with SHPO and the State Archaeologist. Where feasible, avoidance of the resource is required. Where not feasible, mitigation must include an effort to minimize project impacts on the resource consistent with SHPO and State Archaeologist requirements.

Prior to construction, workers shall be trained about the need to avoid cultural properties, how to identify cultural properties, and procedures to follow if undocumented cultural properties, including gravesites, are found during construction. If human remains are encountered during construction, the Permittee shall immediately halt construction and promptly notify local law enforcement and the State Archaeologist. Construction at such location shall not proceed until authorized by local law enforcement or the State Archaeologist.

#### 5.5.19 Livestock

Precautions to protect livestock must be taken by the Permittee unless otherwise negotiated with the affected landowner.

#### 5.5.20 Security

The Permittee will install temporary gates or similar barriers, as needed, to prohibit public access to the right-of-way during construction.

#### 5.5.21 Restoration

The Permittee shall restore the right-of-way, temporary work spaces, access roads, abandoned right-of-way, and other public or private lands affected by construction of the pipeline to the natural conditions that existed immediately before construction of the pipeline and as required by other federal and state agency permits. Restoration must be compatible with the safe operation, maintenance, and inspection of the pipeline. Within 60 days after completion of all restoration activities the Permittee shall advise the Commission in writing of the completion of such activities.

#### 5.5.22 Cleanup

All waste and scrap that is the product of construction shall be removed from the right-of-way and all premises on which construction activities were conducted and properly disposed of upon completion of each task. Personal litter, including bottles, cans, and paper from construction activities shall be removed on a daily basis.

#### 5.5.23 Pollution and Hazardous Wastes

All appropriate precautions to protect against pollution of the environment must be taken by the Permittee. The Permittee shall be responsible for compliance with all laws applicable to the generation, storage, transportation, clean up and disposal of all wastes generated during pipeline construction and restoration of the right-of-way.

#### 5.5.24 Damages

The Permittee shall fairly [restore or](#) compensate landowners for damage to crops, fences, private roads and lanes, landscaping, drain tile, or other damages sustained during construction..

### 5.6 Other Requirements

#### 5.6.1 Other Permits and Regulations

The Permittee shall comply with all applicable state rules and statutes. The Permittee shall obtain all required permits for the project and comply with the conditions of these permits. A list of the permits known to be required is included in the permit application. The Permittee shall submit a copy of such permits to the Commission upon request.

## 6.0 SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Special conditions shall take precedence over other conditions of this permit should there be a conflict.

[Describe any special conditions]

### **Special Conditions Example Language**

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species**

As part of the preconstruction reports, the Permittee will include a section evaluating the potential for the occurrence of aquatic invasive species in the project area and describing, if any, the best management practices that apply. The Permittee should identify any infested waters or otherwise indicate that aquatic invasive species are not anticipated. The DNR must be provided an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. The DNR must be notified if any aquatic invasive species are identified in an area not previously identified as infested water.

#### **Wildlife-Friendly Erosion Control Materials**

The Permittee, in cooperation with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, shall use wildlife-friendly erosion control materials in areas known to be inhabited by wildlife species (birds, small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians) susceptible to entanglement in plastic netting.

#### **Rare and Unique Resources**

The Permittee shall follow measures and recommendations for avoiding and minimizing impacts to Blanding's turtle populations as outlined in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Environmental Review Fact Sheet Series for the Blanding's Turtle.

Construction and maintenance personnel will be made aware of rare resources and plant communities during pre-construction meetings to minimize potential disturbance. The Permittee shall avoid impacts to state-listed endangered, threatened, and special concern species in all areas of the project including temporary workspaces associated with the project.

#### **Rare Species Surveys**

Known locations of state-listed threatened/endangered species and their habitats have been identified within the project area. These species may occur within the proposed route where suitable habitat exists. The Permittee, in consultation with the DNR, will determine the need for rare species surveys (pre-construction) within the approved route. In the areas where these species are known to exist or where the right-of-way passes through habitats where these species are likely to exist, field surveys may be required. In the event that impacts cannot be avoided, the Permittee would be required to obtain a takings permit from DNR for impacts to the species. The Permittee shall submit results of these efforts to the Commission with the Plan and Profile.

#### **Contamination Survey**

*The Permittee, in consultation with the MPCA, shall identify any contaminated sites as it performs its detailed survey and acquisition work prior to the submittal of the final plan and profile to the Commission.*

## **7.0 DELAY IN CONSTRUCTION**

If the Permittee has not commenced construction or improvement of the route within four years after the date of issuance of this permit the Commission shall suspend the permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7852.3300. If at the time of suspension, or at a later time, the Permittee decides to construct the pipeline, it shall certify to the Commission that there have been no significant changes in any material aspects of the conditions or circumstances existing when the permit was issued. If the Commission determines that there are no significant changes, it shall reinstate the permit. If the Commission determines that there is a significant change, it may order public information meetings or a new hearing and consider the matter further, or it may require the Permittee to submit a new application.

## **8.0 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

Prior to the start of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission the procedures that will be used to receive and respond to complaints. The procedures shall be in accordance with the requirements of Minn. R. 7852.3700, and as set forth in the complaint procedures attached to this permit [*Attachment Complaint Report Procedures*]. The Permittee shall advise the Commission when such procedure has been established.

The Permittee shall notify the Commission of any complaints received during the course of construction pertaining to Minn. R. 7852.3600 that are not resolved within 30 days of the complaint.

Upon request, the Permittee shall assist the Commission with the disposition of unresolved or longstanding complaints. This assistance shall include, but is not limited to, the submittal of complaint correspondence and complaint resolution efforts.

## **9.0 PIPELINE SAFETY**

In an emergency situation, responders will take appropriate actions necessary to address the emergency. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216G.02, subd. 3(a) the pipeline routing permit may not set safety standards for the construction of pipeline. This would also apply to operation and maintenance. Therefore, this Pipeline Routing Permit does not address pipeline safety related issues.

## 10.0 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Failure to timely and properly make compliance filings required by this permit is a failure to comply with the conditions of this permit. Compliance filings must be electronically filed with the Commission.

### 10.1 Plan and Profile

At least ~~14 calendar~~30 days before right-of-way preparation for construction begins on any segment or portion of the project, the Permittee shall provide the Commission with a plan and profile of the right-of-way and the specifications and drawings for right-of-way preparation, construction, cleanup, and restoration for the segment of pipeline for which construction is scheduled. The documentation shall include maps depicting the plan and profile including the designated route, right-of-way, and pipeline alignment approved per this permit.

The Permittee may not commence construction until the ~~14~~30 days has expired or until the Commission has advised the Permittee in writing that it has completed its review of the plan and profile documents and determined that the planned construction is consistent with this permit. If the Permittee intends to make any significant changes in its plan and profile or the specifications and drawings after submission to the Commission the Permittee shall notify the Commission at least five days before implementing the changes. No changes shall be made that would be in violation of any of the terms of this permit.

The Permittee shall also provide the Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety with the same information provided to the Commission. The Permittee's plan and profile and specifications and drawings, shall become a condition of this permit and shall be complied with by the Permittee in accordance with Minn. R. 7852.3500.

### 10.2 ~~Periodic~~ Status Reports

The Permittee shall report to the Commission on progress ~~during~~regarding finalization of the route, and construction of the pipeline. The Permittee shall report weekly ~~during construction to both the Commission and the Department of Commerce.~~ Reports shall begin with the submittal of the plan and profile for the project and continue until completion of restoration.

### 10.3 Notification to Commission

At least three days before the pipeline is to be placed into service, the Permittee shall notify the Commission of the date on which the pipeline will be placed into service and the date on which construction was complete.



#### **10.4 As-Builts**

Within ~~60~~90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit copies of all final as-built plans and specifications developed during the project.

#### **10.5 GPS Data**

Within ~~60~~90 days after completion of construction, the Permittee shall submit to the Commission, in the format requested by the Commission, geo-spatial information (e.g., ArcGIS compatible map files, GPS coordinates, associated database of characteristics) for the pipeline and associated facilities.

#### **11.0 RIGHT OF ENTRY**

The Permittee shall allow Commission designated representatives to perform the following, upon reasonable notice, upon presentation of credentials and at all times in compliance with the Permittee's site safety standards:

- a. To enter upon the facilities easement of the property for the purpose of obtaining information, examining records, and conducting surveys or investigations.
- b. To bring such equipment upon the facilities easement of the property as is necessary to conduct such surveys and investigations.
- c. To sample and monitor upon the facilities easement of the property.
- d. To examine and copy any documents pertaining to compliance with the conditions of this Permit.

#### **12.0 PERMIT AMENDMENT**

The Permittee may apply to the Commission for an amendment of the route designation or to conditions specified in the permit in accordance with the requirements and procedures of Minn. R. 7852.3400.

#### **13.0 PERMIT MODIFICATION OR SUSPENSION**

If the Commission determines that substantial evidence supports a finding that a violation of the terms or conditions of this pipeline routing permit has occurred or is likely to occur, it may take

action to modify or suspend this permit in accordance with Minn. R. 7852.3800. The Commission may at any time re-consider modification or suspension of this permit if the Permittee has undertaken effective measures to correct the violations.

#### **14.0 PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION CERTIFICATE**

In accordance with Minn. R. 7852.3900, the Permittee shall file with the Commission a written certification that the construction and remediation of the permitted pipeline has been completed in compliance with all permit conditions and landowner agreements. The certification shall be considered by the Commission within 60 days of its filing. The Commission shall accept or reject the certification of completion and make a final determination regarding cost or reimbursements due. If the certification is rejected, the Commission shall inform the Permittee in writing which deficiencies, if corrected, will allow the certification to be accepted. When corrections to the deficiencies are completed, the Permittee shall notify the Commission, and the certification shall be reconsidered as soon as possible. After acceptance of the certification, the Commission's jurisdiction over the Permittee's pipeline routing permit shall be terminated.

GENERIC TEMPLATE

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLAINT HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR  
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

**A. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of reporting and resolving complaints received by the permittee concerning permit conditions for site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation, and maintenance.

**B. Scope**

This document describes complaint reporting procedures and frequency.

**C. Applicability**

The procedures shall be used for all complaints received by the permittee and all complaints received by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) under Minn. R. 7829.1500 or Minn. R. 7829.1700 relevant to this permit.

**D. Definitions**

**Complaint:** A verbal or written statement presented to the permittees by a person expressing dissatisfaction or concern regarding site preparation, cleanup or restoration or other route and associated facilities permit conditions. Complaints do not include requests, inquiries, questions or general comments.

**Substantial Complaint:** A written complaint alleging a violation of a specific permit condition that, if substantiated, could result in permit modification or suspension pursuant to the applicable regulations.

**Unresolved Complaint:** A complaint which, despite the good faith efforts of the permittee and a person, remains to both or one of the parties unresolved or unsatisfactorily resolved.

**Person:** An individual, partnership, joint venture, private or public corporation, association, firm, public service company, cooperative, political subdivision, municipal corporation, government agency, public utility district, or any other entity, public or private, however organized.

## **E. Complaint Documentation and Processing**

1. The permittee shall designate an individual to summarize complaints for the Commission. This person's name, phone number and email address shall accompany all complaint submittals.
2. A person presenting the complaint should to the extent possible, include the following information in their communications:
  - a. name, address, phone number, and email address;
  - b. date of complaint;
  - c. tract or parcel number; and
  - d. whether the complaint relates to a permit matter or a compliance issue.
3. The permittee shall document all complaints by maintaining a record of all applicable information concerning the complaint, including the following:
  - a. docket number and project name;
  - b. name of complainant, address, phone number and email address;
  - c. precise description of property or parcel number;
  - d. name of permittee representative receiving complaint and date of receipt;
  - e. nature of complaint and the applicable permit condition(s);
  - f. activities undertaken to resolve the complaint; and
  - g. final disposition of the complaint.

## **F. Reporting Requirements**

The permittee shall commence complaint reporting at the beginning of project construction and continue through the term of the permit. The permittee shall report all complaints to the Commission according to the following schedule:

**Immediate Reports:** All substantial complaints shall be reported to the Commission the same day received, or on the following working day for complaints received after working hours. Such reports are to be directed to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at 1-800-657-3782 (voice messages are acceptable) or [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us). For e-mail reporting, the email subject line should read "PUC EFP Complaint" and include the appropriate project docket number.

**Monthly Reports:** During project construction and restoration, a summary of all complaints, including substantial complaints received or resolved during the preceding month, shall be filed by the 15th of each month to Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, using the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at:  
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

If no complaints were received during the preceding month, the permittee shall file a summary indicating that no complaints were received.

**G. Complaints Received by the Commission**

Complaints received directly by the Commission from aggrieved persons regarding site preparation, construction, cleanup, restoration, operation and maintenance shall be promptly sent to the permittee.

**H. Commission Process for Unresolved Complaints**

Commission staff shall perform an initial evaluation of unresolved complaints submitted to the Commission. Complaints raising substantial permit issues shall be processed and resolved by the Commission. Staff shall notify the permittee and appropriate persons if it determines that the complaint is a substantial complaint. With respect to such complaints, each party shall submit a written summary of its position to the Commission no later than ten days after receipt of the staff notification. The complaint will be presented to the Commission for a decision as soon as practicable.

**I. Permittee Contacts for Complaints and Complaint Reporting**

Complaints may be filed by mail or email to:

[Name]

[Mailing Address]

[Phone]

[Email]

This information shall be maintained current by informing the Commission of any changes as they become effective.

**MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
COMPLIANCE FILING PROCEDURE FOR  
PERMITTED ENERGY FACILITIES**

**A. Purpose**

To establish a uniform and timely method of submitting information required by the Commission energy facility permits.

**B. Scope and Applicability**

This procedure encompasses all compliance filings required by permit.

**C. Definitions**

**Compliance Filing:** A filing of information to the Commission, where the information is required by a Commission site or route permit.

**D. Responsibilities**

1. The permittee shall file all compliance filings with Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary, Public Utilities Commission, through the eDockets system. The eDockets system is located at: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/home.jsp>

General instructions are provided on the eDockets website. Permittees must register on the website to file documents.

2. All filings must have a cover sheet that includes:
  - a. Date
  - b. Name of submitter/permittee
  - c. Type of permit (site or route)
  - d. Project location
  - e. Project docket number
  - f. Permit section under which the filing is made
  - g. Short description of the filing

3. Filings that are graphic intensive (e.g., maps, engineered drawings) must, in addition to being electronically filed, be submitted as paper copies and on CD. Paper copies and CDs should be sent to: 1) Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, and 2) Department of Commerce, Energy Environmental Review and Analysis, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

The Commission may request a paper copy of any electronically filed document.

GENERIC TEMPLATE

**PERMIT COMPLIANCE FILINGS<sup>1</sup>**

PERMITTEE:

PERMIT TYPE:

PROJECT LOCATION:

PUC DOCKET NUMBER:

| Filing Number | Permit Section | Description of Compliance Filing | Due Date |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |

---

<sup>1</sup> This compilation of permit compliance filings is provided for the convenience of the permittee and the Commission. It is not a substitute for the permit; the language of the permit controls.



| Filing Number | Permit Section | Description of Compliance Filing | Due Date |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------|
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |
|               |                |                                  |          |

GENERIC TEMPLATE