

Speak Up!

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Application of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation for a Route Permit for the Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project in Olmsted County | GP-15-858

Closed Nov 21, 2016 · Discussion · 2 Participants · 4 Topics · 3 Answers · 0 Replies · 0 Votes

2

PARTICIPANTS

4

TOPICS

3

ANSWERS

0

REPLIES

0

VOTES

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

BASED ON THE PROJECT APPLICATION, THE COMPARATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, AND THE RECORD AS A WHOLE, SHOULD THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMISSION APPROVE OF A ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE PROJECT?  0 Answers · 0 Replies

IF A ROUTE PERMIT IS GRANTED, WHICH ROUTE SEGMENTS BEST MINIMIZE THE HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS?  3 Answers · 0 Replies

Cathy Roetzler · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Nov 15, 2016 6:15 am

 0 Votes

comment...

Ronald Jacobson · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Nov 21, 2016 11:55 am

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Ronald Jacobson · Citizen · (Postal Code: unknown) · Nov 21, 2016 12:03 pm

 0 Votes

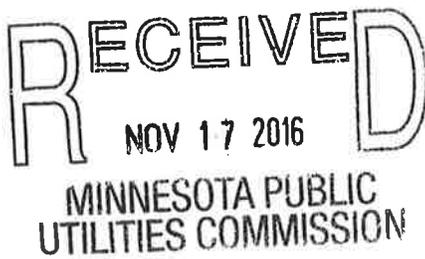
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November 15, 2016

Re: Rochester Public Utilities Commissions Docket #G-011/GP-15-858

To whom it may concern:

My name is Irrold Hanson and I live at 4635 11th Avenue SW Rochester, Minnesota.

This is regarding the pipeline proposal going through the north 1.76 acres of my land.

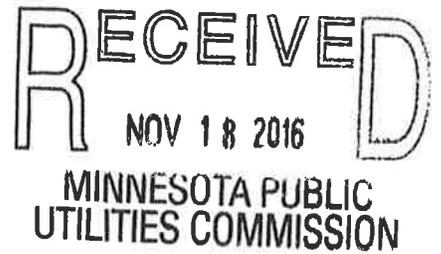
I am in favor of using the secondary route 24 on 48th street. I am not in favor of using the 7P route as it would eliminate the possibility of building a house on my property. In my opinion, using route 24 would be the most economical route for the pipeline.

Please call me with any questions. My number is 507-421-5598.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Irrold M. Hanson".

Irrold M. Hanson



November 17, 2016

Re: Commission docket # 16-858
 OAH docket # 8-2500-33180

To Whom It May Concern:

We are residents of 3510-48th St SW, Rochester, MN. We are opposed to the alternate route for the Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project proposal. If a pipeline has to go through this area, we think the preferred route through the field should be chosen.

On the East side of County Road 8 (page 7 of 10 of the MN Dept of Commerce map) along 48th street there are ^{only} two options — the alternate route which is in the North ditch along 48th St, or the preferred route, which is about 200 feet North of the alternate, in a field. The alternate route is only about 100 feet from the homes on the South side of 48th street (ours and our neighbors.)

On the west side of County Road 8 there are four routes to choose from for the gas line. Any one of the four routes could connect to the preferred route or alternate route on the east side of County Rd 8.

My point is that it doesn't make sense

to use the alternate route or even consider using it since it is in the ditch and is way too close to the homes along 48th street. It also does not leave room for expansion of 48th street to the North for Rochester's future plans. We desire neither a pipeline or road in our front yard.

Thank you for not choosing the alternate route for the proposed pipeline.

Sincerely,
Halla & Carl
Auerud

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My neighbors and I are not opposed to the pipeline but we would like the pipeline to avoid our home sites. For example, I live at 901 70th Ave SW, Byron, 55920. The pipeline travels on the east side of 70th Ave and then crosses the road (to the west side) and then travels another half mile to pass my residency. It then crosses over to the east side again. We were hoping for the pipeline to stay on the east side for as long as it could. We understand that there will be spots were it might be unpassable, but once pass that part, can they avoid residencies.

I included a map of our section. I put a star by my house and drew a black marked line where we would hope the pipeline could travel. I think we would all like the pipeline to travel next to another previous pipeline but that might not be an option.

Thank you for considering my viewpoint and giving myself the chance to express my thoughts.

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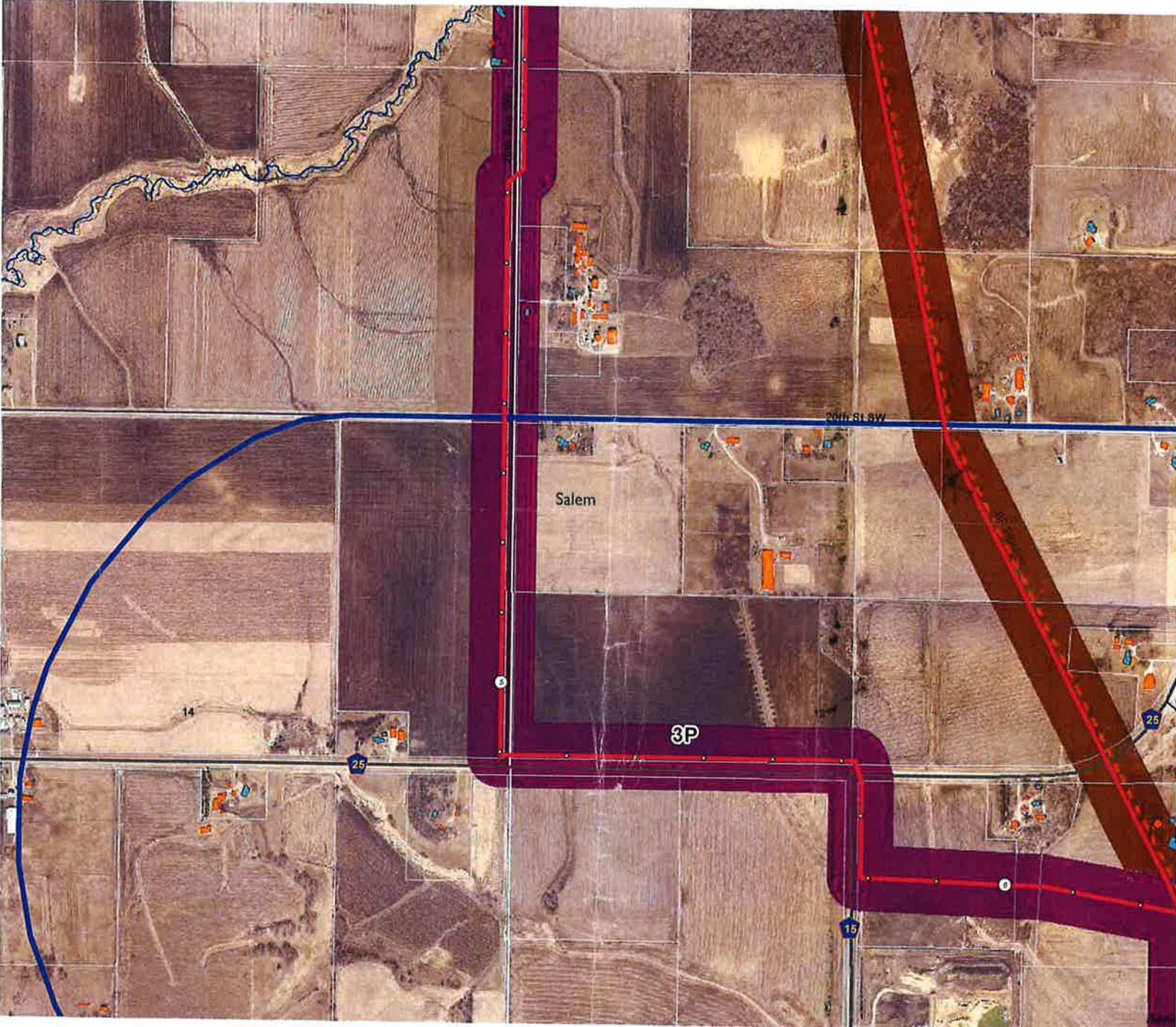
Larry Franck

901 70th Ave SW

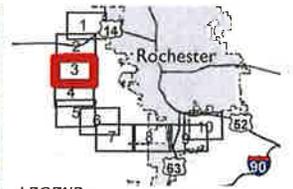
Byron, MN 55920

Salem Township

(cell) 507-951-8164



Natural Gas



- LEGEND**
- Route Segment
 - Segment Endpoint
 - Comparison Endpoint
 - Application Preferred Route
 - Application Alternate Route
 - Modified Preferred Route
 - Scoping Route
 - # Route Segment Number
 - Proposed Town Border Station Buffer
 - Proposed District Regulator Station Buffer
 - Town Border Station (TBS)
 - Future Development
 - City Boundary
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* Structures built after the date of the photography are not included in the tabulations

0 Feet 1,000
1 inch = 800 feet

RESIDENCES, COMMERCIAL AND OUT BUILDINGS AND MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY LISTINGS
 ROCHESTER NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
 FIGURE 10 (PAGE 3 OF 10)

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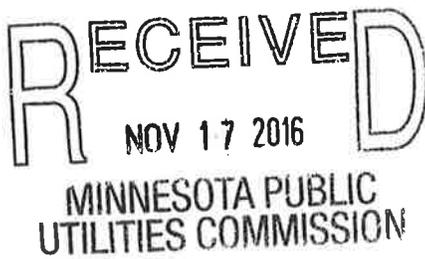
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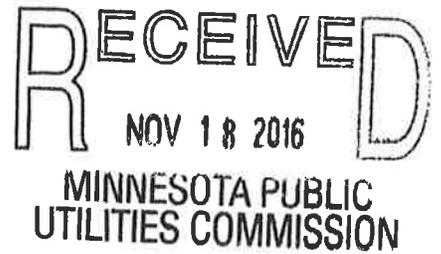
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 Charles E. Case
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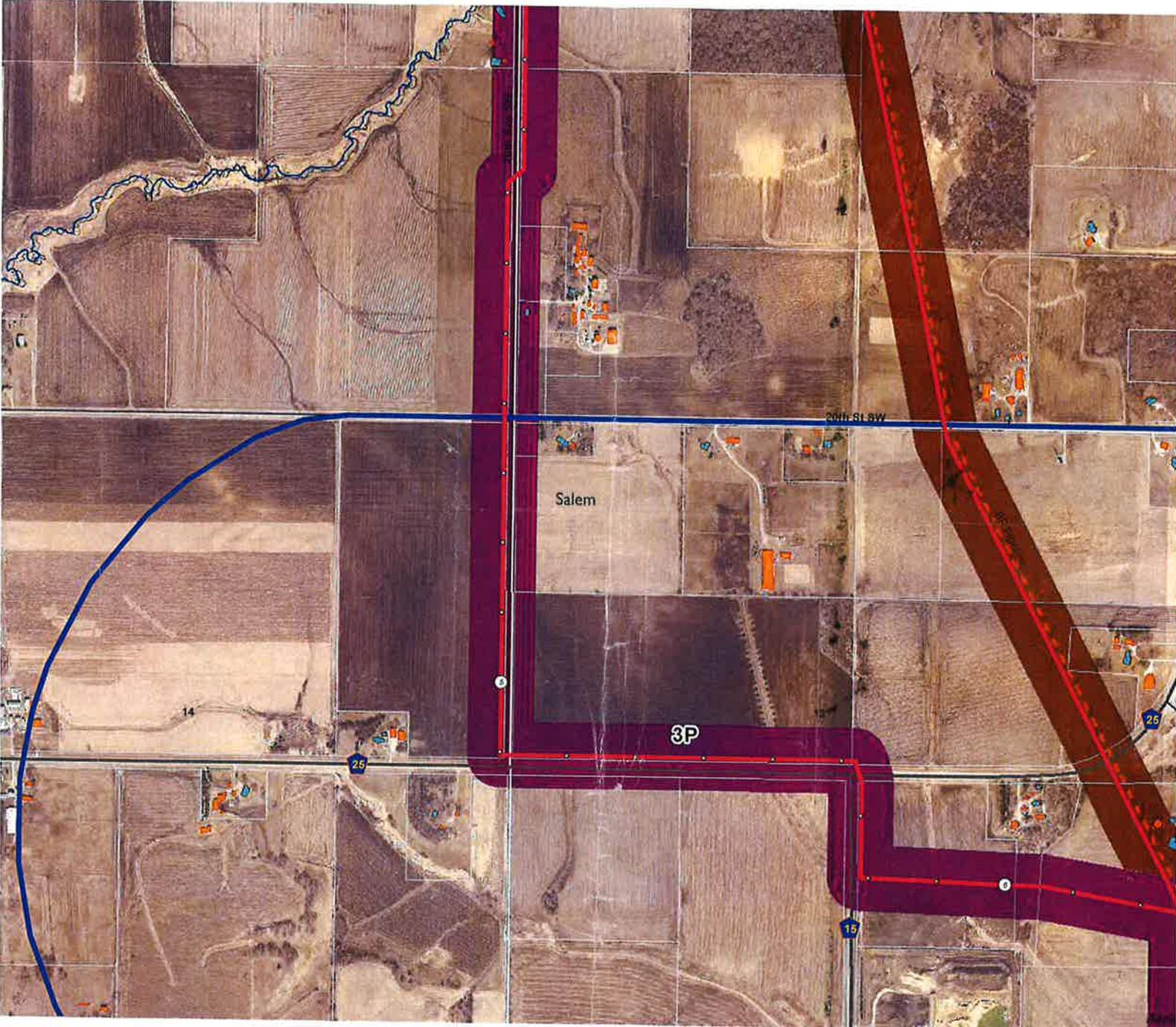
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901 70th Ave SW

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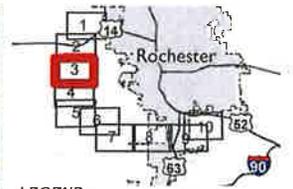
(cell) 507-951-8164



DEPARTMENT OF
AERCE

RESIDENCES, COMMERCIAL AND OUT BUILDINGS AND MINNESOTA

Natural Gas



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 ROCHESTER NATURAL GAS PIPELINE
 FIGURE 10 (PAGE 3 OF 10)

Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project

Cathy Roetzler
4815 50th St SW
Rochester, MN 55902
Email: croetzler@gmail.com

November 11, 2016

Honorable Judge Eric L. Lipman
DOC & MERC staff members

Your Honor, Sirs and Madams,

This letter is in response to the proposed Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline Project. I would like to draw your attention to the document that was handed out to landowners on November 9th, 2016 at the public and evidentiary hearing procedure, entitled Residence, Commercial and out buildings and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Listings, page 7 of 10.

I would like to recommend the new pipeline be put in according to the Modified Preferred Route along County Road 117, also known as 40th street.

If you look at page 7 of 10 of the above mentioned document, the number 19 on the scoping route is just under two darker brown spots on the map. These brown spots on the image are on my property line and are sink holes in the field. Looking north and west of the number 19 about an inch on the map is another brown spot, also a sink hole.

The number 19 and the land just west of there to the white north south line is land that my family owns. We rent this tillable land out to a farmer who farms with equipment that does NOT compact the land and uses the no till method of planting.

I am not sure how familiar you all are to farming techniques, but the more you compact the dirt with heavy equipment, such as would be brought in to construct the pipeline along the Scoping Route, the more damage you do to the land, damage that cannot be changed. This we have learned after generations of traditional farming. The less we damage the land by heavy equipment and tillage, the better product we have at harvest season. Over the generations we have learned that turning the dirt, or plowing, erodes and destroys the top soil. Bringing heavy equipment onto land that has not been tilled, turned over nor has had heavy equipment on it for over 20 years is detrimental to the sustainability to our farm. This is also true with the Application Preferred Route that runs thru the farm just north of my land.

Another objection to keep in mind is our families plan to turn our farm into an organic, sustainable farm. Putting a gas pipeline just 54" underground would be an obstacle to our plans to move ahead with getting certified organic in the near future. This information comes from the Midwest Organic Sustainable Education Service, (MOSES). More information on the detrimental destruction of the dirt and land that would come with this proposed pipeline on the Application Preferred Route and the Scoping Route is documented on the case against Atina Diffley of Organic Farm Works.

Looking at the same page 7 of 10, the Application Alternate Route with the number 18 on it would destroy a natural spring that comes from the ground and into a creek that eventually runs under 50th street where the number 17 is on said map.

As mentioned at the opening of this letter, I would suggest the Rochester Natural Gas Pipeline go along the Modified Preferred Route of County Road 117, also known as 40th street.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to email me at the above address if you have further need of correspondence.

Sincerely,

Cathy Roetzler
4815 50th St SW
Rochester, MN 55902