

SANDPIPER PIPELINE PROJECT

Beaver Lodge Station, North Dakota to Superior, Wisconsin



North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC

1409 Hammond Ave.
Superior, WI 54880
www.enbridgeUS.com

John McKay

Manager, Land Services (U.S. Projects)
Sandpiper Pipeline Project
sandpiperproject@Enbridge.com

May 21, 2014

Aitkin County, Minnesota
209 2nd St NW
Aitkin, MN 56431-1269

MAY 23 2014

RE: Upcoming environmental survey work

Dear Landowner:

I am writing to notify you that additional environmental survey work for the Sandpiper Pipeline Project will be occurring in your area starting in late May. As a landowner within the study area for this research, you may be contacted to request permission to enter your property for this work.

Enbridge will be conducting these federal and state required scientific studies to evaluate the potential presence of the northern long-eared bat for portions of the Sandpiper Pipeline Project in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provides guidelines to determine if these bats are present in likely habitat areas for projects that involve activities such as tree clearing. Surveys are necessary to determine the potential effects the Project may pose to the species and to develop appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures to reduce adverse effects on the species.

In some instances, crews will be required to observe equipment overnight. Our surveyors have extensive experience in successfully completing this work on private property and public lands. The total amount of time spent on each property will depend on its characteristics. We will make every effort to minimize disturbance to landowners, crops, livestock or land. Use of heavy equipment is not anticipated at this time; in some circumstances, equipment (small tripods or netting) will be used and potentially left in place overnight. More information on the survey process can be found in the enclosed brochure.

Survey crew members will have identification with them and on their vehicles, indicating that they are Enbridge contractors. We ask for and appreciate your patience as surveys are scheduled and completed. If you have any questions please contact our information line at 1-855-788-7805.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John McKay'.

John McKay
Manager, Land Services (U.S. Projects)

About the Sandpiper Pipeline Project: North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC (Enbridge) is proposing to build an approximately 616 mile pipeline with associated facilities from Enbridge's Beaver Lodge Station near Tioga, North Dakota to its existing terminal in Superior, Wisconsin.

The Sandpiper Pipeline Project is being developed to meet the growing demand for North Dakota crude oil from refineries in the United States and Eastern Canada. The pipeline will expand opportunities for North Dakota shippers to connect to a variety of markets and will assist in establishing a long-term, stable and reliable source of crude oil for the United States and its refineries.

Northern Long-Eared Bat & ACLD Forest management

Aitkin County Land Department manages 172,000 acres of forest, most of it is suitable habitat for the Northern Long-Eared Bat (according to USFWS documents)

- ✓ Forest management "threats" to Northern Long-Eared Bat (NLEB)
 - Mortality to individual bats due to timber harvest during summer breeding season
 - Loss of habitat due to timber harvesting

- ✓ Greater than 70% of the ACLD forest acres are in forest stands considered NLEB habitat

- ✓ Less than 1/3 of ACLD forest acres has *potential* summer access/operability for timber harvesting...
 - growing on suitable soil types (summer operability)
 - accessible by summer road

- ✓ Greater than 99.5% of the ACLD forest is NOT impacted by timber harvest each summer.
 - The annual timber harvest rate (from 2009-2013) is 1.8% of the forestland
 - 18% of the annual harvest occurred in summer June-August. (.32%)

- ✓ ACLD forestry practices exceeds the State guidelines on wildlife tree retention (snags, cavity trees, reserve clumps)



Northern Long-Eared Bat

Myotis septentrionalis

The northern long-eared bat has been proposed to be federally listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act. Endangered species are animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. Identifying, protecting, and restoring endangered and threatened species are primary objectives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program.

What is the northern long-eared bat?

Appearance: The northern long-eared bat is a medium-sized bat about 3 to 3.7 inches but with a wingspan of 9 to 10 inches. Its fur color can be medium to dark brown on the back and tawny to pale-brown on the underside. As its name suggests, this bat is distinguished by its long ears, particularly as compared to other bats in its genus, *Myotis*, which are actually bats noted for their small ears (*Myotis* means mouse-eared).

Winter Habitat: Northern long-eared bats spend winter hibernating in caves and mines, called hibernacula. They typically use large caves or mines with large passages and entrances; constant temperatures; and high humidity with no air currents. Specific areas where they hibernate have very high humidity, so much so that droplets of water are often seen on their fur. Within hibernacula, surveyors find them in small crevices or cracks, often with only the nose and ears visible.

Summer Habitat: During summer, northern long-eared bats roost singly or in colonies underneath bark, in cavities, or in crevices of



Photo by Steve Taylor, University of Illinois

This northern long-eared bat, observed during an Illinois mine survey, shows visible symptoms of white-nose syndrome.

both live and dead trees. Males and non-reproductive females may also roost in cooler places, like caves and mines. This bat seems opportunistic in selecting roosts, using tree species based on suitability to retain bark or provide cavities or crevices. It has also been found, rarely, roosting in structures like barns and sheds.

Reproduction: Breeding begins in late summer or early fall when males begin swarming near hibernacula. After copulation, females store sperm during hibernation until spring, when they emerge from their hibernacula, ovulate, and the stored sperm fertilizes an egg. This strategy is called delayed fertilization.

After fertilization, pregnant females migrate to summer areas where they roost in small colonies and give birth to a single pup. Maternity colonies, with young, generally have 30 to 60 bats, although larger maternity colonies have been observed. Most

females within a maternity colony give birth around the same time, which may occur from late May or early June to late July, depending where the colony is located within the species' range. Young bats start flying by 18 to 21 days after birth. Adult northern long-eared bats can live up to 19 years.

Feeding Habits: Northern long-eared bats emerge at dusk to fly through the understory of forested hillsides and ridges feeding on moths, flies, leafhoppers, caddisflies, and beetles, which they catch while in flight using echolocation. This bat also feeds by gleaning motionless insects from vegetation and water surfaces.

Range: The range of the northern long-eared bat includes much of the eastern and north central United States, and all Canadian provinces from the Atlantic Ocean west to the southern Yukon Territory and

eastern British Columbia. Within the United States, this area includes the following 39 States: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Why is the northern long-eared bat in danger of extinction?

White-nose Syndrome: No other threat is as severe and immediate as the disease, white-nose syndrome. If this disease had not emerged, it is unlikely the northern long-eared population would be declining so dramatically. Since symptoms were first observed in New York in 2006, white-nose syndrome has spread rapidly from the Northeast to the Midwest and Southeast; an area that includes the core of the northern long-eared bat's range where it was most common before this disease. Numbers have declined by 99 percent in the Northeast. Although there is uncertainty about the rate that white-nose syndrome will spread within the species' range, it is expected to spread throughout the United States.

Other Sources of Mortality:

Although significant population declines have not been observed due to the sources of mortality listed below, they may now be important factors affecting this bat's ability to persist while experiencing dramatic declines caused by white-nose syndrome.

Impacts to Hibernacula: Gates or other structures to exclude people from caves and mines restrict bat flight and movement and change airflow and internal cave and mine

microclimates. A few degrees change can make a cave unsuitable for hibernating bats. Also, cave-dwelling bats are vulnerable to human disturbance while hibernating. Bats use up their energy stores when aroused and may not survive the winter or females may not successfully give birth or rear young.

Loss or Degradation of Summer

Habitat: Highway and commercial development, surface mining, and wind facility construction permanently remove habitat and are prevalent in many areas of this bat's range. Timber harvest and forest management can remove or alter (improving or degrading) summer roosting and foraging habitat.

Wind Farm Operation: Wind turbines kill bats, including northern long-eared bats, although only a small number have been documented to date. However, there are many wind projects within a large portion of the bat's range and many more are planned.

What Is Being Done to Prevent Extinction of the Northern Long-Eared Bat?

Disease Management: Actions have been taken to slow the spread of white-nose syndrome through human transmission of the fungus into caves (e.g. cave and mine closures and advisories; national decontamination protocols). A national plan was prepared by the Service and other state and federal agencies that details actions needed to investigate and manage white-nose syndrome. Many state and federal agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations are researching this disease to try to control its spread and address its affect.

Addressing Wind Turbine

Mortality: The Service and others are working to minimize bat mortality from wind turbines on several fronts. We fund and conduct research to determine why bats are susceptible

to turbines, how to operate turbines to minimize mortality and where important bat migration routes are located. The Service, state natural resource agencies, and wind energy industry are developing a Midwest Wind Energy Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan that will provide wind farms a mechanism to continue operating legally while minimizing and mitigating listed bat mortality.

Listing: We are proposing to list the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. Listing affords a species the protections of the Act and increases the priority of the species for funds, grants, and recovery opportunities.

Hibernacula Protection: Many agencies and organizations have protected caves and mines that are important hibernacula for cave-dwelling bats.

What Can I Do?

Do Not Disturb Hibernating Bats:

Comply with all cave and mine closures, advisories, and regulations. In areas without a cave and mine closure policy, follow approved decontamination protocols (see whitenosesyndrome.org/topics/decontamination). Under no circumstances should clothing, footwear, or equipment that was used in a white-nose syndrome affected state or region be used in unaffected states or regions.

Leave Dead and Dying Trees

Standing: Where possible and not a safety hazard, leave dead or dying trees on your property. Northern long-eared bats and many other animals use these trees.

Install a Bat Box: Dead and dying trees are usually not left standing, so trees suitable for roosting may be in short supply and bat boxes can provide additional roost sites.

*For more than 60 years,
Enbridge has safely and
reliably delivered energy in
the Midwest and throughout
North America.*

As part of our pipeline project planning activities, Enbridge will conduct field surveys on protected bat populations along the proposed pipeline construction route. Some of this work may be conducted on your property.

WHAT WILL THIS SURVEY WORK LOOK LIKE?

Survey activities typically include habitat assessments, acoustic surveys, mist-net surveys, and radio-tracking of individual bats. Surveys will take place between May and August during the time when the protected bat species are active in their summer habitat.

Where suitable forest habitat is present, acoustic surveys will be conducted for up to **six consecutive days**. An acoustic detector that records bat calls will be set up during the day and left unmanned for the duration of the survey, except for periodic daylight service visits. The device may be placed on the ground or on a tripod and is approximately one square foot as shown in the photo at top right.

MAY 23 2014

Mist net surveys will be conducted overnight for up to ten consecutive nights. These surveys typically take place once acoustic surveys are complete, but in some cases, may be conducted at the same time. Nylon mesh mist nets will be suspended between two poles as shown in the two lower photos on the right. For each mist net location, crews will arrive approximately one hour before sunset to prepare up to five nets. Nets will be continuously monitored through the night **for up to eight hours**.

If a bat is captured during mist net surveys, a temporary radio transmitter may be affixed to the back of the individual to allow for tracking. The bat can then be tracked back to the roost tree. Locating the roost tree aids in determining whether bats are using trees within the project area as roost sites or maternity colonies.



An acoustic survey recorder on a tripod detects bat calls and helps agents confirm bat species.



A crew sets up a mist net survey location to determine the existence of endangered species.



As many as five mist net locations can be continuously monitored for up to 8 hours.

WHY ARE BAT SURVEYS NECESSARY?

Certain bat species are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Bat surveys will be conducted in the area to determine if the pipeline project will affect those bats. The ESA outlines measures for the protection of those particular bat species. These surveys will assist in the development of appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

WHEN WILL THE SURVEY BE CONDUCTED?

Bat surveys will be conducted from May through August. The surveys will generally take place during daylight hours using acoustic equipment. If the protected bat species are detected through the daylight acoustic surveys, additional surveys will be required during night hours. These surveys generally begin **an hour before sunset and continue for up to eight hours.**

HOW WILL THE SURVEYS IMPACT ME OR MY PROPERTY?

Generally, environmental field studies cause little or no disruption or disturbance for landowners. Landowners will be notified prior to survey activity on their property. Survey crews will be entering the survey area through pre-approved access points. Most activities will take place within the survey corridor. Please be aware that some activities will take place at dusk and during overnight hours. You may also see crews on public roads using equipment to track bats during the day. All crews will be wearing high-visibility clothing, and will be identifiable by signage on vehicles and at survey access points.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

*Please contact Enbridge at
Sandpiper Project - 1-855-788-7805
Line 3 Replacement - 1-855-788-7812
or visit enbridge.com.*

PROTECTED SPECIES BAT SURVEYS

AN INFORMATION GUIDE FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

Handout

MAY 27 2014

SWCD
\$1819.27

May 12, 2014

Laurie

The board of directors of the Onanegozie RC&D Council, at their March 27, 2014 Council meeting formally endorsed their earlier decision to dissolve the 501(c)(3).

The funds remaining in the Council's checking account are to be distributed equally among the Council's sponsoring organizations; SWCDs and County Boards of Commissioners from Aitkin, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine counties, as directed in the Council's by-laws. In order to cover any contingencies, approximately \$100.00 will not be distributed to the Council's sponsoring organizations.

If there are no additional claims, the approximate \$100.00 remaining will be provided to the Initiative Foundation as a donation from the Onanegozie RC&D Council.

To help expedite this process, please cash your checks as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Larry Nelson

Larry Nelson, Executive Director
Onanegozie RC&D Council, Inc.

ONANEGOZIE RC & D 75-7525/2919 2158
 PH. (320)679-4604
 2008 Mahogany St., Ste. 3
 Mora, MN 55051

Date 5-12-14

Pay to the order of Aitkin County Board of Commissioners \$ 1819.27

Eighteen hundred and nineteen dollars & ²⁷/₁₀₀ Dollars  Security details on back

Greater Minnesota Credit Union
 Mora Office (320)679-3863 www.gmku.com
 112 Lake St. South
 Mora, MN 55051

for Final disbursement *Laurie Nelson* MP

⑆ 291975258 ⑆ ⑆ 7000000 ⑆ ⑆ 1169 ⑆ 2158

ONANEGOZIE RC&D

"Land of Friendly People"

*42290 Ginger Ave
Harris, MN 55032*



SAINT PAUL MN 550

12 MAY 2014 PM 3 1



USA FIRST CLASS PERMIT

*Laurie Westlund
30517 270th Lane
Aitkin, MN 56431*

56431208617



AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W., Rm. 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276

May 19, 2014

Tom and Jane VanderMey
27317 State Hwy. 210
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Tom and Jane:

Your issue is scheduled to be on our May 27th agenda. The exact time is not yet known, but we are anticipating it will be late in the morning or after lunch. Once the agenda is finalized, which will be late this week, we will mail a copy to you.

Sincerely,



Sue Bingham
Administrative Assistant

cc: Commissioners
John Welle, County Engineer

AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Courthouse
217 Second Street N.W., Rm. 130
Aitkin, MN 56431
218-927-7276

May 19, 2014

John and Rhonda Beasley
40352 Nature Avenue
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear John and Rhonda:

Your issue is scheduled to be on our May 27th agenda. The exact time is not yet known, but we are anticipating it will be late in the morning or after lunch. Once the agenda is finalized, which will be late this week, we will mail a copy to you.

Sincerely,



Sue Bingham
Administrative Assistant

cc: Commissioners
John Welle, County Engineer

Thank you for the
memorial donation
for Larry,

Sincerely,
The
Turner
Family

During a time
like this
we realize how much
our friends and relatives
really mean
to us...

Your expression
of sympathy will always
be remembered

To the Aitkin County Board
of Commissioners - Thank
you for the lovely plant
& your thoughtfulness!

MAY 20 2014

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: May 27, 2014

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
Daniel Javeris	x		Aitkin Age
Brenda Butterfield	x	x	
Tom Vander Mey	x		
Ann Vander Mey	x		
Bob Harwants	x		MY SELF
Joe Dyer			MN STATE PATROL
Paul N. K.	x		MN STATE PATROL
Keluecrog	x		