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Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary  
Public Utilities Commission

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Issued: January 9, 2017

In the Matter of the Application of Great Plains Natural Gas Company for a Pipeline Routing Permit for the Fergus Falls Pipeline Replacement Project

**PUC Docket Number:** G-004/GP-16-685

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and the Minnesota Department of Commerce will hold a public information meeting on the natural gas pipeline route permit partial exemption application by Great Plains Natural Gas Company for its proposed natural gas pipeline replacement project in Fergus Falls Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

**Date:** January 26, 2017  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Bigwood Event Center – Whitford Room  
925 Western Avenue  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

To find out if a meeting has been cancelled due to bad weather call 1-855-731-6208 or visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc).

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the proposed project and the state's review process, and to assist the Commission in determining whether to grant or deny the partial exemption.

### **Project Description**

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Great Plains Natural Gas Company's (Great Plains) proposed Fergus Falls Pipeline Replacement Project is described as an approximately 3-mile long, 8.625-inch outside diameter, high pressure (500 to 700 pounds per square inch gauge) natural gas pipeline. The newly proposed pipeline would replace and reroute a 2.2-mile segment of an existing 6-inch diameter natural gas pipeline that connects the Fergus Falls Town Border Station and the Green Plains Ethanol Valve Site. The new pipeline would be constructed approximately three-quarters of a mile north of the existing 6-inch diameter pipeline along a new route that varies in width from 120 to 500 feet. The new pipeline would require a 50-foot permanent right-of-way within the proposed route. As indicated by Great Plains in its application, the proposed route of the new pipeline was selected because commercial development has encroached on the existing 6-inch pipeline making construction of a new pipeline in the existing right-of-way infeasible. In accordance with 49 CFR 192.5, the existing 6-inch pipeline would be reclassified and de-rated from transmission to

distribution pipeline to allow continued service to customers along its length. The proposed project is located in Fergus Falls Township, Otter Tail County, Minnesota.

## Written Comment Period

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**Comment Period:** Initial comment period closes February 16, 2017, at 4:30 p.m.  
Reply comment period closes February 23, 2017, by 4:30 p.m.

Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered. Please include the docket number (16-685) in all communications.

**Topics for Comment:** Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Will the project have a significant impact on humans or the environment?
- What are possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Should the Commission grant or deny the partial exemption requested by Great Plains?
- Should any specific permit conditions be placed on this project?

### Comments may be submitted via:

**U.S. Mail:** Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

**eFiling:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eFiling* and follow the prompts.

**Online:** Visit [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Speak Up!*, find this docket, and add your comments to the discussion.

**Important:** Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's and the Department of Commerce's websites, except in limited circumstances, consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Personally identifying information is not edited or deleted from submissions.

## Process Information

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The Commission must approve a pipeline route permit before a project can be built. Great Plains' pipeline route permit application was accepted as substantially complete on December 22, 2016. A partial exemption pipeline application is filed when an applicant believes the project will not have significant human or environmental impacts or that the impacts can be managed through mitigative measures and permit conditions. The partial exemption process takes 90 days to complete.

Following the public meeting and comment period the Commission will evaluate the information in the record to determine whether the project has the potential for significant human or environmental impacts, and whether a partial exemption should be granted. If a partial exemption is granted, the Commission will

issue a pipeline route permit for the construction of the pipeline project. If denied, the applicant will need to refile a full pipeline route permit application with the Commission.

## For More Information

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**Full Case Record:** The **pipeline route permit application** and other documents filed in this matter are available at: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *eDockets*, enter the year (16) and the docket number (685), select *Search*.

**Department of Commerce Website:** <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34588>

**Subscribe to the Docket:** To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: [mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc), select *Subscribe*, and follow the prompts.

**Project Mailing List:** Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate in meetings and comment periods. Contact [docketing.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:docketing.puc@state.mn.us) or 651-201-2204 with the docket number (16-685), your name, mailing address, and email address.

**Community Locations:** A copy of the partial exemption application is available for public inspection at the following location:

- Fergus Falls Public Library, 205 East Hampden Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**Minnesota Statutes and Rules:** This project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapter 216G and Minnesota Rules chapter 7852, available at [www.revisor.mn.gov](http://www.revisor.mn.gov).

## Contacts

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### Public Utilities Commission

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### Department of Commerce

Larry Hartman, Environmental Review Manager: [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us); 651-539-1839 or 1-800-657-3794

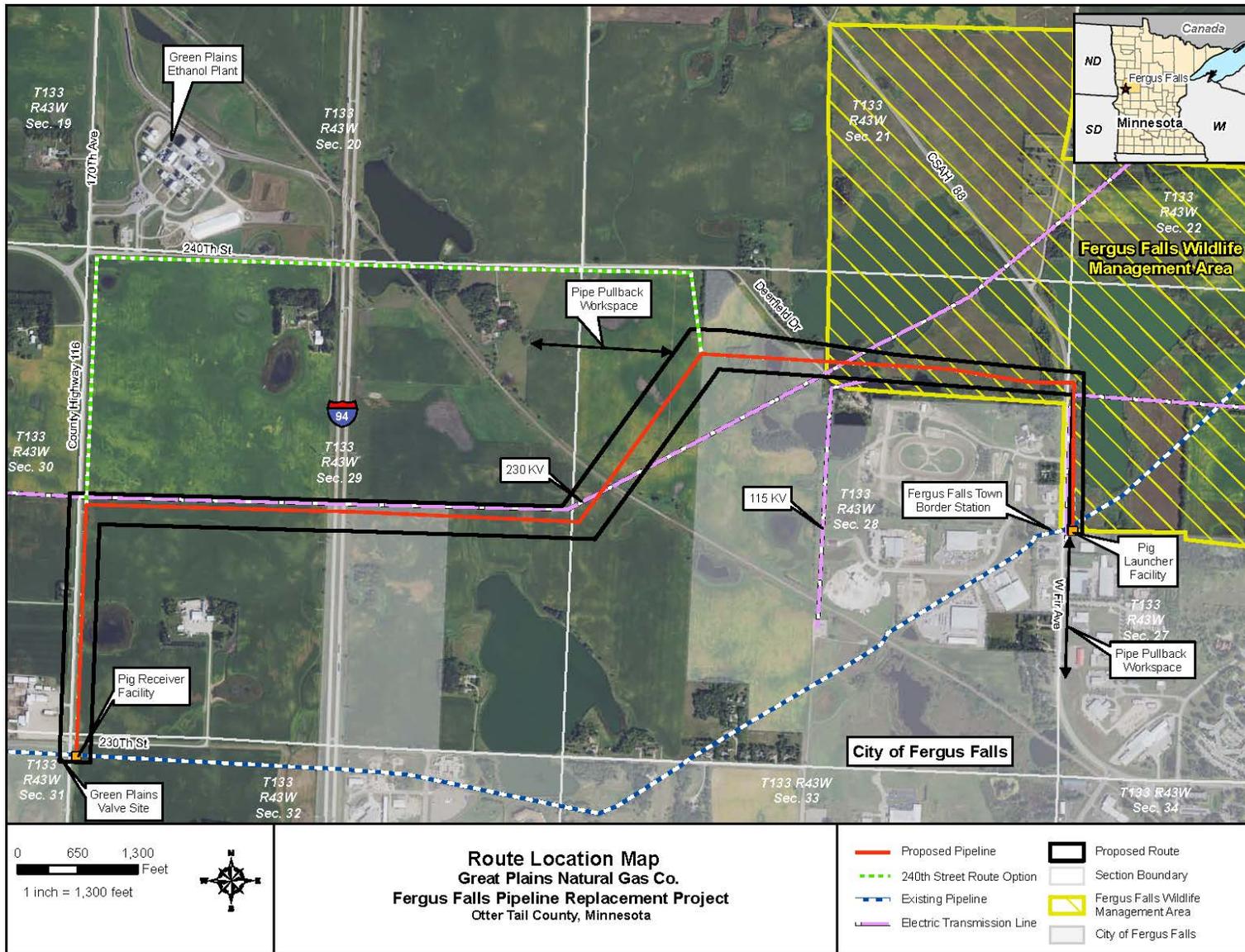
### Great Plains Natural Gas Company

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This document can be made available in alternative formats (e.g., large print or audio) by calling 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with hearing loss or speech disabilities may call us through their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service. Individuals with a disability who need reasonable accommodations to participate in these meetings please also contact the Public Utilities Commission at 651-296-0406 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

# Route Location Map



Source: Great Plains Natural Gas Company, Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Gas Pipeline Route Permit (October 10, 2016).