

Grand Rapids Pipeline Project

August 5, 2016

Hearing Services
Alberta Energy Regulator
Suite 1000, 250 – 5th Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4

To Whom It May Concern,

**RE: Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. Grand Rapids Pipeline Project
Decision 2014 ABAER 012
Condition Compliance Update – Condition 7**

Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. (Grand Rapids) provides the following update to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on compliance with Condition 7 of Decision 2014 ABAER 012 (Decision) for the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project (Project). Condition 7 states:

Grand Rapids must have a qualified wildlife specialist available during clearing and construction activities to ensure sensitive areas are clearly marked, to deal with issues that arise, and to ensure plans and conditions are being followed as intended.

The AER has requested the following, to ensure condition 7 is met:

Grand Rapids will submit an approval request to the AER a letter signed by a qualified wildlife specialist confirming that the requirement has been met.

Grand Rapids' Environment Group has sent Ms. Emilee Mailes, AER Regional Land Use Officer, an update on both Conditions 6 and 7, on July 28, 2016, attached. Grand Rapids submits this information in addition to the update previously submitted to the AER on April 15, 2015.

Sincerely,



Paige Dodd
Regulatory Project Manager
Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd.

July 28, 2016

Emilee Mailes
Regional Land Use Officer
Alberta Energy Regulator
9915 Franklin Avenue
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4

450 – 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 5H1
Tel: 403.920.7378
Fax: 403.920.2328
Email: Craig_Losos@transcanada.com
www.transcanada.com/grandrapids

RE: Wildlife Survey Results for the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project House River Crossing

Dear Ms. Mailes,

Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. (Grand Rapids) received approval on October 9, 2014 (2014 ABAER 012) to construct the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project (the Project). On January 29, 2016, Grand Rapids received approval for the amended pipeline route across the House River at NW 10-78-15 W4M under amended Pipeline Agreement (PLA) 130674. This portion of the Project includes pipeline installation through the Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone (KWBZ) associated with the House River, from NW 11-78-15 W4M to SE 9-78-15 W4M (from approximately KP 159.0 to KP 161.4), was constructed in early 2016 under frozen ground conditions, during the KWBZ timing restriction. Grand Rapids therefore provides this letter to demonstrate adherence with Conditions 6 and 7 of Schedule 1 for amended PLA 130674 as outlined below.

Condition 6

Grand Rapids must obtain approval from the AER for any activity proposed within a restricted activity period. If AER approval is obtained, Grand Rapids must ensure a thorough search along the ROW and within an appropriate buffer on either side of the ROW for wildlife and unique habitat features such as nests, active dens, leks, mineral licks, and amphibian breeding areas. The search must be done by experienced personnel using the Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines before clearing and construction. Appropriate mitigation must be applied following direction in the Integrated Standards and Guidelines and the results are to be submitted to the AER.

Condition 7

Grand Rapids must have a qualified wildlife specialist available during clearing and construction activities to ensure sensitive areas are clearly marked, to deal with issues that arise, and to ensure plans and conditions are being followed as intended.

On behalf of Grand Rapids, wildlife biologists at CH2M HILL Energy Canada, Ltd. (CH2M) conducted ground-based surveys within the KWBZ associated with the House River from NW 11-78-15 W4M to SE 9-78-15 W4M (from approximately KP 159.0 to KP 161.4) on January 30 and 31, 2016. The Project parallels an existing pipeline right-of-way and road for its entire length within the KWBZ and crosses an existing pipeline right-of-way at KP 159.2 and 160.9. The ground-based survey was concentrated on the pipeline right-of-way, temporary workspace and un-cleared adjacent habitat up to a 100 m buffer where suitable wildlife habitat was identified to document wildlife signs (e.g., scat, browse, tracks, etc.) and any wildlife habitat features (e.g. dens, mineral licks). A thorough ground-based survey was conducted utilizing meandering transects to ensure all areas were visually scanned, while stopping to investigate

areas of interest (e.g. slopes, upturned roots, large downed trees, natural cavities, bare ground). All wildlife observations and evidence of wildlife use was documented during the ground-based surveys.

The habitat searched consisted of a mixture of coniferous and mature mixed wood forest (aspen, white spruce, and balsam poplar), with young pole forest patches within old burn areas (white spruce, alder, aspen, birch, and jack pine).

Wildlife Survey Results

Visual and/or auditory observations of wildlife species included red squirrel, common raven, black-backed woodpecker, black-capped chickadee, boreal chickadee, hairy woodpecker, pine grosbeak, red-breasted nuthatch, redpoll sp. and ruffed grouse. Wildlife signs (e.g., tracks, middens, forage, marking) were recorded for the following species: bear sp. (claw markings on trees), coyote (tracks), deer sp. (tracks), grey wolf (tracks), grouse sp. (tracks), pileated woodpecker (forage sign), red squirrel (tracks, middens), sapsucker sp. (forage sign), snowshoe hare (tracks), and weasel sp. (tracks). No species with special conservation status or wildlife habitat features (e.g., dens, mineral licks) were observed during the surveys. All wildlife observations will be submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS).

General pipeline mitigation measures are provided in the Project-specific Green Area Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) (CH2M 2014), including mitigation measures for wildlife (Section 7.1 of the EPP). Measures to minimize impacts within the KWBZ associated with the House River are provided in the Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Protection Plan prepared for this crossing (CH2M 2015). No additional site-specific mitigation are recommended as a result of the wildlife sweep and no sensitive areas required delineation prior to the initiation of clearing and construction activities. A qualified Environmental Inspector is on the Project site during all clearing and construction activities to provide guidance regarding any wildlife concerns that arise and ensure all Project plans and conditions are being followed as intended.

Closing

Should you have any questions with respect to the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at (587) 933-3724 or via email (craig_losos@transcanada.com).

Sincerely,

GRAND RAPIDS PIPELINE GP LTD.



Craig Losos, M.Sc., P.Biol.
Senior Environmental Advisor
Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd.

References

CH2M Hill Energy Canada, Ltd. 2014. Green Area Environmental Protection Plan for the Proposed Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. Grand Rapids Pipeline Project. Prepared for Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. Calgary, AB.

CH2M Hill Energy Canada, Ltd. 2015. Key Wildlife and Biodiversity Zone Protection Plan – House River Crossing at Township 78 Range 15 W4M for the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project. Prepared for Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. Calgary, AB.

July 28, 2016

Emilee Mailes
Regional Land Use Officer
Alberta Energy Regulator
9915 Franklin Avenue
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4

450 – 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, AB, Canada T2P 5H1
Tel: 587.933.3735
Fax: 403.920.2200
Email: craig.losos@transcanada.com
www.transcanada.com/grandrapids

RE: Wildlife Survey Results for the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project MacKay Terminal

Dear Ms. Mailes,

Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. (Grand Rapids) was granted approval for the MacKay Terminal under the Alberta *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act (EPEA)* (Approval No. 350277-00-00) on October 22, 2014. The MacKay Terminal is located in 34-89-14 W4M on Crown-owned lands in the Green Area of Alberta, within the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, approximately 40 km west of Fort McMurray, Alberta. The MacKay Terminal is within the West Side of the Athabasca River Caribou Range and has a restricted activity period of February 15 to July 15.

Clearing of the MacKay Terminal site has occurred in stages, as required for project construction. In April, Grand Rapids continued clearing an additional 14 ha area within the MacKay Terminal Site. Grand Rapids, therefore, provides this letter to demonstrate adherence with Conditions 6 and 7 of the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) Decision 2014 ABAER 012 issued for the Grand Rapids Pipeline Project as outlined below.

Condition 6

Grand Rapids must obtain approval from the AER for any activity proposed within a restricted activity period. If AER approval is obtained, Grand Rapids must ensure a thorough search along the ROW and within an appropriate buffer on either side of the ROW for wildlife and unique habitat features such as nests, active dens, leks, mineral licks, and amphibian breeding areas. The search must be done by experienced personnel using the Sensitive Species Inventory Guidelines before clearing and construction. Appropriate mitigation must be applied following direction in the Integrated Standards and Guidelines and the results are to be submitted to the AER.

Condition 7

Grand Rapids must have a qualified wildlife specialist available during clearing and construction activities to ensure sensitive areas are clearly marked, to deal with issues that arise, and to ensure plans and conditions are being followed as intended.

On behalf of Grand Rapids, wildlife biologists at CH2M HILL Energy Canada, Ltd. (CH2M) conducted a ground-based wildlife survey at the MacKay Terminal footprint on March 29, 2016. The footprint is located next to an existing access road and a portion of the footprint that has been previously cleared and developed. The ground-based wildlife survey was concentrated on the MacKay Terminal footprint and un-cleared adjacent habitat up to a 100 m buffer where suitable wildlife habitat was identified to document wildlife signs (e.g., scat, browse, tracks, etc.) and any wildlife habitat features (e.g. dens, mineral licks). A thorough survey was conducted utilizing meandering transects to ensure all areas were visually scanned,

while stopping to investigate areas of interest (e.g., large trees, natural cavities, open areas). All wildlife observations and evidence of wildlife use was documented during the surveys.

The habitat searched consisted of low-lying coniferous forest (black spruce and tamarack).

Wildlife Survey Results

Visual and/or auditory observations of wildlife species included boreal chickadee, downy woodpecker and gray jay. Wildlife signs (e.g., tracks) were recorded for the following species: Canada lynx, moose and snowshoe hare. No species with special conservation status or wildlife habitat features (e.g., dens, mineral licks) were observed during the surveys. All wildlife observations will be submitted to the Fisheries and Wildlife Management Information System (FWMIS).

General mitigation measures are provided in the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for the Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. MacKay Terminal (TERA Environmental Consultants 2014), including mitigation measures for wildlife (Section 7.1 of the EPP). No additional site-specific mitigation is recommended as a result of the wildlife sweep and no sensitive areas required delineation prior to the initiation of clearing and construction activities. A qualified Environmental Inspector is assigned to the terminal during clearing and construction activities to provide guidance regarding any wildlife concerns that arise and to ensure all project plans and conditions are being followed as intended.

Closing

Should you have any questions with respect to the wildlife surveys that were conducted at the MacKay Terminal, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone at 587-933-3724 or via email (craig_losos@transcanada.com).

Sincerely,

GRAND RAPIDS PIPELINE GP LTD.



Craig Losos
Senior Environmental Advisor
Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd.

References

TERA Environmental Consultants. 2014. Environmental Protection Plan for the Proposed Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. MacKay Terminal. Prepared for Grand Rapids Pipeline GP Ltd. Calgary, AB.