

STATE OF MINNESOTA

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Beverly Jones Heydinger	Chair
David C. Boyd	Commissioner
Nancy Lange	Commissioner
Dan Lipschultz	Commissioner
Betsy Wergin	Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Pipe Line Company, LLC for a Certificate of Need for the Minnesota Pipe Line Reliability Project

MPUC Docket No. PL-5/CN-14-320

SUMMARY OF FILING

Minnesota Pipe Line Company, LLC (“MPL”) is proposing to increase the pumping capacity of the 305 mile-long MPL Line 4, the newest pipeline on the MPL System. The proposed MPL Reliability Project (“Project”) will increase the current pumping capacity of MPL Line 4 from approximately 165,000 barrels of crude oil per day to its original design capacity of approximately 350,000 barrels per day. The proposed Project would not change the pipeline itself. No new pipeline will be installed and no new pipeline right-of-way will be acquired for this Project.

The existing MPL System, including MPL Line 4, supplies the two Minnesota Refineries, located in St. Paul Park and Rosemount, Minnesota. The MPL system operates close to its current system capacity of 465,000 barrels per day. As such, any temporary planned or unplanned outage on any part of the MPL System threatens the supply of crude oil to the Minnesota Refineries, in turn threatening the supply of transportation fuels and other refined products to businesses and citizens of Minnesota and the region. The Project will benefit Minnesota and the region by helping the refineries that produce the majority of Minnesota’s transportation fuels and other refined products continue to have access to sufficient and reliable crude oil supplies via pipeline, the safest and most efficient oil transportation method. The Project achieves this by giving the MPL System the flexibility to shift volume to its newest pipeline, MPL Line 4, in the event of an outage on other segments of the pipeline system and allowing MPL to conduct maintenance on its pipeline system without disrupting crude oil supplies to the Minnesota Refineries.

The Project involves the upgrade of the two existing pump stations on MPL Line 4, in Clearbrook and Albany, Minnesota. The Project also involves the installation of six new pump stations along the current MPL Line 4 route. The new pump stations will be located in rural areas in the counties of Hubbard, Wadena, Morrison, Meeker, McLeod and Scott on properties owned by MPL. MPL Line 4 is already capable of handling the additional pumping capacity, so work at these pump station sites is the only construction necessary to complete the Project.