

Terry Gonser

From: Terry Gonser
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 11:45 AM
Subject: Natural Gas Pipeline
Attachments: Ltr. to Property Owner.pdf; VECTOR PLAN.pdf

Good morning Board,
Yesterday afternoon, DTE held meetings with the Supervisors of Oakland, Orion and Independence Townships regarding the installation of a new natural gas pipeline. They are holding similar meetings today with the Western Townships regarding the same. The planning is in the very early conceptual stage right now. DTE, who purchased MichCon gas utility some years ago, has a financial interest in Vector Pipeline, the company planning the construction and operation of the pipeline. Their proposal is to install a 42" natural gas pipeline adjacent to an existing 36" natural gas pipeline which runs through the ITC utility corridor in our township as well as many others. At this early stage of the project, surveys will be the first step conducted. As such, a letter (attached) will be sent to all property owners potentially affected. I have also attached a copy of Vector's general explanation. I have a map in the office of the proposed pipeline route if anyone wishes to see it. I do not expect any further communication from DTE for the next few months.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Terry



Vector Pipeline™

October xx, 2014

Landowner Name & Address

Re: Proposed Vector Expansion Project
Right of Way #/Tax Parcel #:
Property located in: [County/State]

Dear Landowner:

With the growing demand for reliable energy sources with fewer emissions, Vector Pipeline recently began evaluating an interstate natural gas pipeline expansion project that will increase energy supply diversity, security and reliability in the U.S. Midwest and Ontario, Canada. The Vector Pipeline System consists of 348 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline between Joliet, Illinois in the Chicago area to parts of Indiana and Michigan and into Ontario, Canada.

The proposed Vector Expansion Project (Project) will enhance the existing Vector Pipeline System by adding up to 55 miles of a 42-inch diameter natural gas pipeline and additional compression, potentially doubling current capacity. The proposed expansion would be constructed adjacent to the existing Vector Pipeline System along a corridor from Highland Township in Oakland County to China Township in St. Clair County. The Project is designed primarily to move Marcellus/Utica gas entering the Vector system in Michigan via proposed third party pipelines to markets in Illinois, Michigan and Ontario. By expanding the system, Vector's customers will be able to acquire the lowest priced gas from multiple sources near Chicago or from the prolific Utica/Marcellus region. The Project is expected to be completed in 2017.

The purpose of this letter is to introduce the proposed Project to you. We have enclosed a Frequently Asked Questions document that provides more detail about this proposal as well as a map of the proposed project.

You are receiving this letter because your property is within or very near the routing study corridor being considered for the Project. Civil, environmental and cultural resources

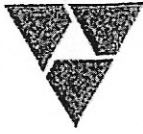
survey activities are required to thoroughly evaluate a pipeline route and assess environmental, engineering and landowner concerns. The surveys will be coordinated with the appropriate municipal officials and performed in a minimal amount of time with the goal of little to no inconvenience to landowners.

While Vector certainly does not anticipate any damages to result from these surveys, please be assured that you will be compensated if any damages to your property or crops occur as a direct result of these activities. Please also note that granting us authorization to access your property for the purpose of conducting these surveys does *not* grant any other rights to Vector. Your consent to survey and your cooperation with Vector's Project representatives would be sincerely appreciated. If you would like to accompany any of the survey crews, we will provide you with an estimated date when they will be crossing your property.

We are early in the proposed Project process and everyone will have multiple opportunities to interact and engage with the Project team, as well as participate in the appropriate regulatory processes.

If you have questions or would like additional information concerning our proposed Project, please call our toll free number 1-xxx-xxxx. We would be happy to address any or all aspects of the Project with you.

Sincerely,



Vector Pipeline™

Survey and Environmental Field Work for Vector Pipeline Expansion

Introduction

Vector Pipeline (Vector) is planning the construction and operation of a natural gas pipeline in your area. As part of the planning process, Vector will be conducting field surveys and evaluations of the proposed construction location. This pamphlet answers many of the survey-related questions commonly asked by landowners.

Why do you need to survey?

The primary reason is to obtain site specific information for the protection of environmental and cultural resources and to determine the constructability of the pipeline. Having accurate, current information along the proposed pipeline route is necessary for the regulatory permitting processes and to identify appropriate construction techniques to reduce impacts. Some of this information is found in maps, air photos, and public records. However, some data must be obtained on site.

What happens during surveys?

A Vector representative (right-of-way agent) will contact you prior to a survey crew entering your property. The survey crew will place stakes at approximately 200-foot intervals along the proposed pipeline centerline and at certain other locations to mark features such as angle points or property lines. Surveyor's stakes are left in place for about 3 to 6 months to serve as a guide to other specialists (e.g., engineers, appraisers, environmental scientists) who may need to conduct investigations of the construction right-of-way. Survey crews will use all-terrain vehicles to carry equipment and personnel along the proposed pipeline route. These crews will clear or widen a 3 to 6 foot line of sight by cutting low-growth vegetation with machetes. If crews need to cut farmed crops, ornamental hedges or trees to clear a line of sight, they will do so only after the landowner and Vector have agreed on fair and reasonable reimbursement to the landowner for losses. Occasionally, incidental damages can result, these are typically very minor but understandably important to Vector and landowners. Vector will fairly compensate landowners for documented damages if they occur.

What do you look for during environmental fieldwork?

This varies depending on the types of property crossed and applicable regulatory requirements. Frequently, we need to conduct archaeological surveys and wetland delineations. Other studies, such as surveys of vegetation and wildlife, soil testing, or stream crossing surveys, may also be necessary.

How will this survey work affect me?

Generally, environmental field studies cause little or no disruption to landowners. Field crews may walk the along the proposed right-of-way crossing your property. In some cases they may need to dig small holes or leave small stakes (called lath) behind. In addition to staking, field crews may hang colored flagging on vegetation. Disturbance is minimal and short term.

What does an archaeological survey entail?

Archaeological surveys document the presence of historic and prehistoric artifacts and structures within the proposed pipeline right-of-way. Professional archaeologists walk along the proposed right-of-way and look for artifacts. Shovel tests are conducted if visibility is obscured by vegetation or if there is a likelihood of buried artifacts. Soils from shovel tests are screened and any artifacts collected. Holes are then filled and sod is replaced.

What if you find an archaeological site on my property?

In most cases, the archaeological sites found on the proposed right-of-way have been disturbed by previous activity. Sometimes a site is found that can yield important information about the past. In this case, Vector's archaeologists may need to return to conduct further work. Our right-of-way agent will contact you if this is necessary.

Artifacts found on your property belong to you. However, because some may have educational value, Vector endorses the donation of rare and culturally significant artifacts to a state repository. Vector will contact you concerning any artifacts found on your property upon completion of the archaeological studies, and you can decide at that time whether you wish to keep or donate the artifacts.

Am I liable for injuries to field crews on my property?

No. These contractors carry worker's compensation insurance. Safety is a top priority for all personnel working on Vector projects.

What is a wetland delineation?

Delineation, or mapping of wetlands found on the proposed right-of-way, is conducted to describe environmental resources in support of regulatory review of the project and determine if special construction methods will be necessary. Typically, teams of 2 to 3 people will walk the proposed route to perform a visual check and limited shovel testing. Teams will sometimes leave flagging behind, marking survey areas. This information is then used to develop proposed construction plans.

What happens if you find a wetland on my property?

If a wetland is identified and a project is undertaken, it would require Vector to use special construction methods on that section of the proposed right-of-way. Identification of wetlands does not affect or alter your use of the land and future uses will remain your prerogative, subject to existing regulations.

What other kinds of work may be done?

Vector may need to identify existing vegetation, assess wildlife habitats, evaluate soil conditions, investigate stream crossings, or conduct other field work depending on site-specific needs. Information collected during this work is used to develop sound, appropriate construction methods. Regardless of the type of fieldwork, you will receive advance notice. Vector's survey methods will be low-impact and cause minimal disruption.

Why do an endangered species survey?

If it appears that protected species (or habitat for that species) may be present, environmental agencies may ask VectorI to field-verify these conditions. If endangered species are identified on your property, Vector will work with the applicable agency to determine the best means to address this issue.

What if this work results in damage to my property?

Vector's environmental surveyors have extensive experience in completing work on private property and are careful not to disturb livestock or to damage properties. A Vector right-of-way agent will contact you to discuss any site-specific issues regarding your particular property. Surveyors carry liability insurance, and Vector will fairly compensate you for documented damages, if any.

When will these surveys be conducted?

Fieldwork is part of an extensive pre-construction planning effort, and is usually conducted during the spring-fall seasons. Field scientists will generally take less than one day, under normal conditions, to complete their work.