



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr., Governor
Robert E. Carter, Jr., Director

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December 21, 2007

Kari Krause
Natural Resource Group, Inc.
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

06-1142-GA-BIN
PUCO

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Federal Agency: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Re: Draft environmental impact statement pertaining to Rockies Express Pipeline LLC's installation of a 622 mile long natural gas pipeline through Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio (FERC Docket #PF06-30-000; DHPA #1562)

Dear Ms. Krause:

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470f) and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the staff of the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") has conducted an analysis of the materials dated November 23, 2007 and received on November 26, 2007, for the above indicated project in Vermillion, Parke, Putnam, Hendricks, Morgan, Johnson, Shelby, Rush, Decatur, and Franklin counties, Indiana.

Thank you for providing a copy of the draft EIS. We will continue our review of cultural resources under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act after we receive the results of the historic structures inventory and the archaeological field investigations. The following points are in response to the concerns addressed in the draft EIS:

1. In regard to the canals, it is our understanding that the pipeline will be installed by open-cut method through the Wabash & Erie Canal and that phase II level of archaeological investigations are being conducted. In regard to the Whitewater Canal, it is our understanding that the pipeline will be installed by horizontal directional drilling and that archaeological investigations are being conducted to clarify the depth of the canal. Our office recommends avoiding this resource by drilling at least 8 feet below the bed of the canal. If this is not feasible, please consult with our office. We will continue our evaluation once we receive the results of the archaeological investigations.
2. Through archival research, it appears that the location of the Magnesia Mound group is in the area recorded as site 12Fr125a and is outside of the proposed project area. Site 12Fr125b does not appear to be the location of this mound group; however, this is a sensitive area for archaeological sites and potentially buried archaeological deposits. Further archaeological investigations must continue to identify and assess possible impacts to archaeological resources. A research plan must be submitted to our office for review and comment prior to archaeological investigations.
3. The Brockman Cemetery, Site 12Fr332 (a historic cemetery), and Site 12Sh12 (a site containing a burial) must be avoided by all project activities. We will continue consultation regarding avoidance measures of the cemeteries. Site 12Sh12 was recorded as having been disturbed by gravel mining in the early 1900s. Further evaluation is necessary regarding this site.

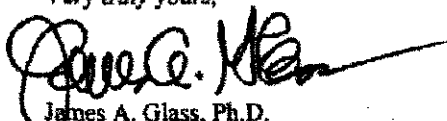
Information on the wetland mitigation areas must be submitted to our office for review and comment. Archaeological investigations may be required in those areas.

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A copy of the revised 36 C.F.R. Part 800 that went into effect on August 5, 2004, may be found on the Internet at www.achp.gov for your reference. If you have questions about archaeological issues please contact Cathy Draeger at (317) 234-3791 or cdraeger@dnr.IN.gov. If you have questions about buildings or structures please contact Holly Tate at (317) 234-3919 or htate@dnr.IN.gov. Additionally, in all future correspondence regarding the above indicated project, please refer to DHPA #1562.

Very truly yours,



James A. Glass, Ph.D.
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

JAG:HAT:CLD:cl

cc: J. Sanderson Stevens, John Milner and Associates
Thomas Chadderton, The Louis Berger Group
Magali Salas, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Lonnie Lister, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission