



NEWS RELEASE
Oct. 27, 2016

For Immediate Release, Contact:
Stacy Eberl, (701) 328-4082
Consumer Affairs/Public Outreach Specialist

ND PSC PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON DAKOTA ACCESS ROUTING

BISMARCK, ND – Due to the considerable recent discussion in the media and among protestors regarding a Dakota Access river crossing north of Bismarck, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) offers the following information regarding the consideration that route received during the NDPSC process.

“The river crossing north of Bismarck was a proposed alternative considered by the company early in the routing process. This route was never included in the proposed route submitted to the PSC and therefore was never vetted or considered by us during our permitting process. It had been eliminated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during their environmental assessment. The final permitted route follows an existing pipeline corridor that has been previously disturbed,” North Dakota Public Service Commission Chair and pipeline siting portfolio holder Julie Fedorchak said today.

Additional Information

The following information has been compiled and condensed from the company’s original application to the NDPSC for the Dakota Access Pipeline project. The full permit application is available on the NDPSC website. The following is a direct link to the application: <http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/14-0842/001-030.pdf>. Routing alternatives are discussed on pages 20-23.

According to the company’s application, Dakota Access’s preference for route selection is to collocate and run parallel with new and existing infrastructure (e.g., pipelines, utility corridors, railway, etc.) to the extent practicable. The criteria used to select the proposed route included (among others):

- the ability to collocate where possible;
- minimize safety concerns;
- avoidance and minimization of environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., wetlands, federally listed threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, seasonal restrictions, and environmental agency permitting/coordination requirements);
- avoidance of indigenous and federally owned lands, and other public lands to the maximum extent possible;
- avoidance of other high-consequence areas as defined by PHMSA and other exclusion/avoidance zones as defined by North Dakota Public Service Commission;
- improved constructability and efficient operation; and
- maintaining economic viability of the DAPL Project.

###

Find us on Twitter: twitter.com/ndpsc or [@NDPSC](https://twitter.com/NDPSC)