

**BEFORE THE MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**
100 Washington Square, Suite 1700
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-2138

FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
121 Seventh Place East Suite 350
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2147

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota
Pipe Line Company for a Routing Permit for a
Crude Oil Pipeline

MPUC Docket No. PL-5/PPL-05-2003
OAH Docket No. 15-2500-17136-2

AFFIDAVIT OF DANA JACKSON

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

DANA JACKSON, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am currently the Senior Program Associate and formerly served twelve years as the Associate Director of the Land Stewardship Project. Land Stewardship Project is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization whose mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture and to develop sustainable communities. It is a membership organization.
2. The Land Stewardship Project operates in three broad program areas: support for regional food systems, sustainable farming practices, and new visions for agriculture. We have produced numerous fact sheets, articles and publications as part of our Multiple Benefits of Agriculture Initiative. Pasture-raised livestock systems and diverse crop rotations provide public benefits of improved water quality, reduction of flooding, enhanced wildlife habitat, reduced air pollutants, and reduced global warming potential. Farmers benefit through increased profit potential, taking pride in clean streams, and improved quality of life for the family. Communities benefit from scenic and healthy landscapes and more positive economic and social interactions between farms and community members. And finally, consumers purchase food that supports landscape, human and animal health.
3. Members of the Land Stewardship Project sit on the Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force, formed under Minnesota law to advise the Commissioner of Agriculture on policies and practices to improve organic agriculture in Minnesota.

4. As Senior Program Associate of Land Stewardship Project, I direct the Farm and City Food Connections Program, and supervise the organization's Communications Program. I have been employed in the field of sustainable agriculture since 1977, first as a founder and co-director of The Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, and as Associate Director of the Land Stewardship Project from 1994 to 2006. Land Stewardship Project has advocated environmentally sound farming systems since its founding in 1982, and the program I direct supports and encourages transitioning and established organic farmers in the Twin Cities who are working to meet the fast growing demand for organic products.

5. I am also co-editor of *The Farm As Natural Habitat: Reconnecting Food Systems with Ecosystems*, an essay collection published in April 2002 by Island Press. This book is designed to open a broad discussion about restoring a relationship between farming and the natural world that improves the sustainability of both. It asserts that wildlife habitat destruction will continue as long as society allows agricultural lands to be ecological sacrifice zones. I am the author of *Eating as if Nature Matters: Stewardship of the Land and the Table* due for publication early in 2007 by Chelsea Green Publications.

6. We are aware of the proposal by Minnesota Pipe Line Company to route a crude oil pipeline across the Gardens of Eagan organic farm owned by Atina and Martin Diffley in Eureka Township, Dakota County, Minnesota. This affidavit is submitted in support of the Gardens of Eagan's petition to intervene as a party in this matter, in support of Atina and Martin's request for a route that avoids their organic farm and in support of their request that the environmental assessment and agricultural mitigation plan for the pipeline be revised to provide better protection for organic farming.

7. The Land Stewardship Project first became involved with the Gardens of Eagan organic farm in 1989, when the Diffleys were forced to sell their farm due to pressures of suburban development. When they lost their Eagan farm, we worked with Atina and Martin to use their experience to promote awareness of the importance of urban agricultural land preservation. In fact, a 1991 film called "Turn Here Sweet Corn" featured the history of the Gardens of Eagan farm. Land Stewardship Project has shown this film to many regional audiences and sold copies for use by organizations across the nation to promote awareness of the importance of urban area land preservation. Gardens of Eagan has become a prominent cultural symbol of the values of organic farming and the survival of an organic farm against significant odds.

8. My experience at Land Stewardship Project has provided me with considerable information about the importance of soil health and biodiversity to organic farming and the vulnerability of organic systems to disruption from activities, like construction, that remove or compact soils and disrupt the organic ecosystem.

9. We have known Atina and Martin Diffley for more than fourteen years as farmers who are dedicated to preserving an organic agricultural land use in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. As the region develops, many farmers find the economic benefits of sale for development irresistible. Where farmers, like Atina and Martin,

are truly committed to preserving agricultural lands that supply a regional food market, Land Stewardship Project believes it is especially important to protect existing and future agricultural land uses near urban areas and markets.

10. Based on my knowledge of organic farming and the mission of the Land Stewardship Project, a route which avoided the Gardens of Eagan organic farm would create fewer adverse impacts than the proposed route.

11. It is important for the Land Stewardship Project that environmental assessments and mitigation plans adequately address issues specific to organic and sustainable agriculture when considering agricultural, natural, and recreational economies. This should be true for exceptional organic farmers such as the Diffeys, as well as for all sustainable and organic farmers. The three years of transition to organic crop production, or the years to establish a system of management intensive grazing on pastureland, or any other transition to sustainable production, are fraught with economic and other difficulties for beginning farmers and for farmers who transition to organic and sustainable production. These farmers should not be forced to repeat that transition if an alternative route would provide better results for them and for the community as a whole.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Dated this 30th day of May, 2006.

Dana Jackson

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF _____)

On this 30th day of May, 2006, before me personally appeared Dana Jackson, known to me to be the same person described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

Notary Public