

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:  
OEP/DG2E/Gas 4  
Rover Pipeline, LLC  
Rover Pipeline Project  
Docket No. CP15-93-000  
§ 375.308(x)

July 12, 2017

Joey Mahmoud  
Senior Vice President  
Rover Pipeline, LLC  
1300 Main Street  
Houston, TX 77002

**Re: Mitigation Measures Necessary for In-Service Authorization**

Dear Mr. Mahmoud:

As you are aware, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) February 2, 2017 *Order Issuing Certificate* (Order)<sup>1</sup> to Rover Pipeline, LLC (Rover) included a number of conditions. Of particular relevance here, Environmental Condition 10 requires a determination that rehabilitation and restoration of areas affected by the project are proceeding satisfactorily before an in-service authorization may be granted by the Director of the Office of Energy Projects. In consideration of both the ongoing status of construction and events as described in my June 1, 2017 letter, Commission staff will use the criteria discussed below as part of any determination of compliance with Environmental Condition 10.

Pursuant to the delegated authority under Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 375.308(x)(7), and Environmental Conditions 2 and 10 of the Order, Rover must complete the following activities regarding rehabilitation and restoration of areas affected by the project in order to receive an in-service authorization of Mainline A:

- 1) removal and disposal of all drilling mud and drill cuttings with the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons from the Oster Sand and Gravel Disposal Pit and the Beach City Quarry to an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approved solid waste disposal site;

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<sup>1</sup> *Rover Pipeline LLC, et al.*, 158 FERC ¶ 61,109 (2017).

- 2) removal and disposal of all drilling mud and drill cuttings from the Tuscarawas Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) site to an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency approved solid waste disposal site;
- 3) development of a remediation and restoration plan, approved by the Director of the Office of Energy Projects, for the Tuscarawas River wetland W1M-ST-180; and
- 4) development of a water-quality monitoring program, approved by the Director of the Office of Energy Projects, for water wells in the vicinity of the Tuscarawas River HDD site, the Oster Sand and Gravel Disposal Pit, and the Beach City Quarry. The program shall include monitoring of residential and public water supplies to last for a period of 2 years, or longer if it is determined that contamination is present. Rover will be required to prepare quarterly reports regarding the results of this monitoring program to be filed with the Secretary of the Commission. The samples shall be analyzed for the following constituents: volatile organic compounds using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) method 8260; semi-volatile organic compounds using USEPA method 8270; and diesel fuel compounds using USEPA method 8015c. Based on the results of the monitoring, Commission staff, in consultation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, may require additional mitigation and remediation for any contamination detected.

In addition, initiation of future HDD activities, as initially referenced in my May 10, 2017 letter, remains suspended at this time. I note that Commission staff continue to review the underlying reasons for the inadvertent return of approximately 2 million gallons of drilling fluid during completion of the HDD of the Tuscarawas River, as well as the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons in the drilling fluid at that site. Work has been progressing on the review undertaken by our third party contractor regarding additional measures to prevent further inadvertent releases. Staff intends to request that Rover address the findings of the third party contractor's report in a forthcoming letter.

Prior to authorizing future HDDs, Commission staff also anticipates the development of a set of protocols to prevent future drilling mud contamination. To that end, it is important that Commission staff gain at least a preliminary understanding of the underlying causes for the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons in the drilling fluid at the HDD of the Tuscarawas River. I am concerned that the lack of availability of Rover's personnel and its contractors' personnel is delaying our ability to determine the relevant facts. Your prompt assistance in determining the cause of the drilling mud contamination will allow Commission staff to develop the necessary protocols and consider resumption of HDD activities.

Finally, Commission staff will continue to closely monitor Rover's actions with respect to testing, remediation, and monitoring at the Tuscarawas River HDD site. Commission staff may take additional actions that are deemed necessary to ensure protection of the environment in accordance with the Commission's Order. If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Bowman at (202) 502-6287.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Turpin  
Director, Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public File, Docket No. CP15-93-000

Mr. Kelly Allen, Manager  
Rover Pipeline, LLC  
1300 Main Street  
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