

Technical Assistance Grant – Demonstration Grant - Final Report
Funding Opportunity Number: DTPH56-09-SN-0001

Award Number: DTPH56-09-G-PHPT03

Project Title: Develop a Pipeline Safety Appendix to the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance
Develop a Pipeline Safety Appendix to the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance

Date Submitted: March 10, 2010

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Specific Objective(s) of the Agreement

Develop a Pipeline Safety Appendix to the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance utilizing standards set forth and recommended by the Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) initiative.

Expected Program Outputs

- Develop a Pipeline Safety Appendix to the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance.
- Mailing of safety brochure from Brookings County detailing the procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements.

Results of Grant Activities

Brookings County, South Dakota has developed and implemented a Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District. Mailings were conducted informing landowners that they had property near a transmission pipeline along with an invitation to attend a public meeting that discussed procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements. A safety brochure has been developed and is available to the public.

The Pipeline Safety Appendix was changed to Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District to clear up concerns that there may be something unsafe with pipelines. The final product that was approved and had its second reading on November 17, 2009 is Article 24.00, TRANSMISSION PIPELINE

RISK REDUCTION OVERLAY DISTRICT of the amended 1997 Revised
Brookings County Zoning Ordinance.

Brookings County consulted several parties while developing our Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District. Representatives from the following organizations were consulted: State of South Dakota Public Utilities Commission; City of Brookings and Volga Officials; Brookings County Commission and its Geographic Information System (GIS) Coordinator, Planning Commission, Emergency Management, Sheriff's, Highway, and Planning Departments; The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad Company; Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Northern Natural Gas Company, Northwestern Energy, and Northern Border Pipeline Company; and CYCLA.

Two ways were studied on how to implement a Pipeline Appendix into the Zoning Ordinance. One way would be to put the setback standards in each District, Lake Park, Natural Resource, Commercial and Agricultural. The second option would be to develop an Overlay District that could be laid over the complete county. We chose to go with the Overlay District since we already had one in place for Aquifer Protection in the County.

The draft Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) document was used during the Overlay District development. At the time this Grant was awarded a Consultation Zone and Planning Zone were recommended. We made the decision to stay with those terms for the approved document.

The Planning Zone was established by using the Potential Impact Radius (PIR) for the existing pipeline and proposed pipeline. Both operators provided information requested by Brookings County.

The Consultation Zone was determined to be 660 feet. Distances of 1,000 and 1,500 feet were also looked at and for our community it was decided that 660 feet would suffice.

Since the Consultation Zone had not been determined prior to the initial development of the Overlay District it was determined to notify every landowner who owned land within 1,500 feet of the existing and proposed pipelines. One Hundred and Fifty (150) letters were mailed to landowners informing them that they had been identified as owning land within 1,500 feet of a natural gas transmission pipeline.

A GIS extension, 3D Analyst, was purchased and used to map the existing and proposed pipelines. We felt that this supplemented the existing National Pipeline Mapping System mapping by giving a good at the terrain surrounding the pipeline. The local railroad, Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern was contacted and they gave written permission to use Global Positioning Position (GPS) technology to verify the pipelines actual location where it crosses the track. Maps of the existing pipeline were also provided by, Northern Natural Gas Company and the proposed pipeline by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. 3D Modeling maps were created and used during the public presentations.

A safety brochure has been developed and online assessable and mailed to any individual that requests one. This brochure has the procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements. Brookings County also has available safety brochures provided by the Northern Natural Gas Company, in English and Spanish. Once the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Pipeline is constructed it is anticipated the same type of brochures will be made available.

Description of Efforts to Disseminate Technical Findings

Contact was made with the two operators in Brookings County, Northern Natural Gas Company and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. They assisted in the development of the Overlay District by providing data when requested and reviewing the documents as they were being prepared.

Two public meetings were held.

The first meeting was held on October 6, 2009 at a regularly scheduled Brookings County Commission Meeting. Officials from the City of Brookings were in attendance along with members of the public.

The second meeting, October 27, 2009 was in the City of Volga's Community Center which is the approximate half way point of the Northern Natural Gas Company pipeline in Brookings County. Maps were displayed showing the setbacks. During the meeting the procedures were explained for obtaining a building permit.

In all discussions it was explained that the goal of the Overlay District is communications.

A safety brochure has been developed and will be made online assessable and be mailed to any individual that would like one. This brochure has the procedures to apply for a building permit and the applicable setback requirements. Brookings County also has available safety brochures provided by the Northern Natural Gas Company, in English and Spanish. Once the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Pipeline is constructed it is anticipated the same type of brochures will be made available.

A PHMSA contractor, CYCLA, assisted Brookings County by providing personnel to review the document and providing helpful feedback. Their technical help was appreciated. This assistance kept us from becoming too restrictive. They were

sent a draft copy of the completed document and then three different individuals reviewed it and during a few conference calls the final product was completed.

Brookings County also gave an update on this grant to various operators, local and federal officials; private and non-profit groups during the 2009 Pipeline Safety Trust Conference in New Orleans, LA. No Brookings County grant funds were used for this conference.

The complete Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District was published in the Brookings Register and was incorporated into the Brookings County Zoning Ordinance twenty days after publication per South Dakota Codified Law.

Issues, Problems or Challenges

The draft Pipeline and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA) initiative is still a draft document and the Overlay District may have to be amended in the future.

Final Financial Status Report

The final financial report has been sent as a separate attachment to the AA.

Attachments:

Brookings County Zoning Ordinance Article 24.00 Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District

Brookings County Zoning Ordinance Article 24.00 Transmission Pipeline Risk Reduction Overlay District Safety Brochure

SF 424A, SF 269 and SF 270