

I. INTRODUCTION

Project History

On July 1, 2019, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (the Department) published an Agricultural Impact Statement (AIS) entitled, "Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline" AIS #4262 (DATCP, 2019) in accordance with <u>Wis. Stat. §</u> 32.035 (DATCP, 2019). The AIS was prepared in response to a project proposal from We Energies to construct approximately 46 miles of new 24-inch diameter pipeline in Walworth, Kenosha and Racine Counties. The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin has authority over this project and designated it as case number 6630-CG-138. Following the publication of AIS #4262, the PSC granted We Energies a Certificate of Authority and authorized We Energizes to proceed with the proposed project along Route A-R2 and with route segments identified with the suffix "-A" (Coker, 2020).

Since receiving approval from the PSC to construct route A-R2, referred to as "Route A" in AIS #4262 (DATCP, 2019), We Energies has previously requested permission from the PSC to modify the original pipeline route. On July 10, 2020 We Energies requested the PSC approve three significant route modifications denoted as SIG-01, SIG-02 and SIG-03 (Wolter, 2020), which the PSC approved on August 11, 2020 (Day, 2020). The Department reviewed these route revisions (SIG-01, SIG-02 and SIG-03) in accordance with <u>Wis. Stat. § 32.035</u> and published <u>AIS #4362</u> as an Addendum to AIS #4262 on January 21, 2021.

Project Updates

We Energies has again proposed modifications to the original A-R2 pipeline route as well as a project staging area. On December 18, 2020 We Energies proposed two significant route modifications, denoted as SIG-04 and SIG-05 (Stasik, 2020a) in response to landowner requests to relocate the pipeline in order to mitigate impacts to certain areas of agricultural land, see Appendix A: Maps (Figures 1 - 3). Route revisions SIG-04 and SIG-05 are located in Town of Burlington in Racine County and the Town of Paris in Kenosha County, respectively. Additionally, on January 11, 2021 We Energies proposed relocating a project staging area to the Town of Lafayette in Walworth County to aid in local permitting processes (Stasik, 2020b). The PSC approved route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05 on January 20, 2021 (Day, 2021a) and the relocated staging area on February 17, 2021 (Day, 2021b).

Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated project staging area will not affect new landowners and will only shift the impact of the pipeline project among the existing landowners denoted in AIS #4262. The acreage of agricultural lands and the respective agricultural landowners affected by route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated project staging area shown in Table 2, was not accounted for within AIS #4262. The project right-of-way (ROW) requirements for the route modifications through agricultural areas are unchanged from the original AIS; that being 50 foot wide permanent easements and up to 50 feet of width for temporary easements.

Prior to the release of this Addendum, We Energies informed the Department that they have enacted voluntary agreements with the landowners impacted by SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated project staging area without actualizing We Energies project authority to exercise eminent domain to acquire the impacted agricultural parcels. As the voluntary contracts preceded any jurisdictional offer by We Energies, relative to these route modifications, the 30-day waiting period for contract negotiations under Wis. Stat. §32.035(4)(d) is not applicable to this Addendum.

Construction Methods and Standards

Pipeline construction for the modified route and project staging area on agricultural lands will be consistent with the construction methods described within AIS #4262 (DATCP, 2019) including open trench through agricultural lands. The open trench method calls for the excavation of a trench approximately 7 feet deep and 8 feet wide at the base. Within

agricultural lands, the minimum distance between the soil surface and the top of the pipeline would be four feet to avoid possible interference with farming equipment. However, for areas near the public ROW where the pipeline may encounter existing or future utility infrastructure, there may only be three feet of soil cover. Large equipment required to excavate soil and place the pipeline within the trench will operate within the trench and along the permanent and temporary ROW.

As required within the PSC Final Decision granting We Energies a Certificate of Authority to construct route A-R2 (Coker, 2020); We Energies will adhere to guidelines outlined in the Agricultural Mitigation Plan (AMP) to construct access roads for areas including the relocated project staging area. According to the AMP, when constructing temporary access roads over agricultural lands, We Energies will remove all topsoil to a depth of 12 inches or the entire original topsoil depth if it is less than 12 inches from the roadway and temporarily stockpile it. Gravel stabilization may also be used in combination with a geotextile construction fabric below the imported gravel to provide a distinct barrier between imported rock material and the subsoil surface. We Energies has indicated to the Department that the access road for the relocated staging area shown in Appendix A: Figure 4, will have gravel stabilization and a geotextile construction fabric liner. Upon completion of the project, We Energies will remove temporary access roads and restore the impacted areas as close as reasonably possible to its pre-construction conditions. Existing field access points utilized by We Energies will remain in place.

II. AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

Prime Farmland and Soils

The soils impacted by the revised ROW of Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area, totaling approximately 16.07 acres, were cataloged by soil map unit and soil texture (Table 1) using the Department's prime farmland soils GIS layer. The Department further analyzed these soils for impacts to soils designated as prime farmland, prime farmland if drained or farmland of statewide importance (Table 1). Prime farmland is designated by the USDA according to section 622.3 of the National Soil Survey Handbook (USDA, 2017) and is based on the ability of the land and soil to produce crops. Definitions of prime farmland, prime farmland if drained, farmlands of statewide importance and not prime farmland are provided under Table 1. The vast majority (91%) of agricultural lands impacted by SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area hold some level of USDA or WI special farmland designation. Based on Table 1, 56% of the impacted area is designated as prime farmland, another 32% is designated as prime farmland if drained (cumulatively 88% potentially prime farmland) with the remaining 3% designated by the state as farmland of statewide importance. The impacted soils are predominately silt loam or a mix of loam and silt loam textured soils. Loam and silt loam textured soils are medium-textured soils (Cornell, 2017) with good soil structure, possess an ideal ability to hold onto water without becoming excessively wet and are usually best suited for crop production (UW-Extension, 2005). This soils analysis shows that modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and relocated staging area for the Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline will impact both high quality agricultural soils and prime farmland.

	Soils		Prime	Prime Farmland if	Farmland of Statewide	Not Prime
	Texture	Acres	(acre)	Drained [∆] (acre)	Importance [™] (acre)	(acre)
SIG-04	Loam	1.53	0.58	0.10	0.50	0.34
	Sandy Loam	1.94	0.86	0.00	0.00	1.08
	Silt Loam	1.86	1.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
SIG-05	Loam	0.69	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Silt Clay	0.10	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
	Silt Loam	3.03	0.00	3.03	0.00	0.00
Staging Area	Silt Loam	6.92	5.08	1.84	0.00	0.00
	Totals	16.07	9.07	5.07	0.50	1.42

Table 1: Agricultural soils impacted by route modifications SIG-04	, SIG-05 and the relocated
staging area not accounted for within AIS #4262.	

***Prime farmland** is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops, and may be utilized for cropland, pastureland, rangeland, forest land, or other lands excluding urban built-up land or water. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce economically sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods, including water management.

Δ**Prime farmland if drained**, indicates that if farmland is drained it would meet prime farmland criteria.

FFarmlands of statewide importance are set by state agency(s). Generally, these farmlands are nearly prime farmland and economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some may produce yields high as prime farmlands under proper conditions.

 ϕ **Not Prime farmland**, indicates farmland is neither prime farmland nor of designated importance.

Three-lift Soil Handling

The three-lift soil handling procedure is recommended for cropland and pasture where the mixing of the subsoil layers from construction practices such as pipeline trenching, may result in persistent crop yield reductions. For agricultural soils, the typical pipeline construction practice is to remove and stockpile only the topsoil (usually all topsoil to a depth of 12 inches) from the entire pipeline trench. In contrast, the three-lift soil handling method requires the stockpiling of the 1) topsoil, 2) subsoil and 3) substratum in three separate piles. After the pipeline has been placed within the trench, the excavated soils would be backfilled in the reverse order from which they were removed (i.e. last soil removed is the first soil backfilled).

The three-lift soil handling method is useful when the proposed trench will intersect both the B and C horizons of a soil profile and the C horizon is of poorer quality (gravel, rock, and/or sand) than the B horizon (silt, clay, and/or loam). Alternatively, this practice may be applicable to soil profiles with a distinct upper and lower B horizon, as opposed to a B and C horizon. Additional factors such as slope, soil drainage, thickness of the soil horizons, and acres of soil units crossed by the project are important in determining soil candidates for which the three-lift method could be beneficial for protection of crop yields. A key for identifying soil candidates for three-lift soil handling is provided in Appendix B.

Many of the soils impacted by the permanent easements of the original Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route, as documented within AIS #4262 (DATCP, 2019), were candidates for the three-lift soil handling procedure. As significant route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05 have altered the previously published A-R2 pipeline route, the Department analyzed the approximate 4.39 acres of agricultural soils not accounted for within the original AIS that will be impacted by the permanent easements of the route modifications. According to the pipeline AMP, construction of the access road for the relocated staging area will consist of excavating all topsoil to a depth of 12 inches or the entire original topsoil depth if it is less than 12 inches from the impacted area. In accordance with the Three-Lift Soil Candidate Key (Appendix B) as excavation is limited to a maximum of 12 inches of topsoil, the soils located within the 6.92 acres of the staging area (not associated with the pipeline route) are not candidates for three-lift soil handling.

In order to conduct an analysis of three-lift soil handling candidates, the Department collected and compiled relevant soil characteristics (slope, drainage, soil horizon textures, soil horizon thickness etc.) and descriptions from the USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Services (NRCS) Web Soil Survey for the impacted 4.39 acres. Using the Three-Lift Soil Candidacy Key shown in Appendix B, the Department reviewed the soil characteristics for each unique NRCS soil map unit impacted by the revised permanent easements. From this review, the Department identified several soil map units, as shown in Table 2, and potential areas that could benefit from three-lift soil handling procedures as described below and within Section III Recommendations.

Of the 4.39 acres of agricultural soils that will be impacted by the permanent easements for route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05, 3.98 acres or 91% are candidates for the three-lift soil handling procedure. Given the high percentage of three-lift soil candidates, effectively the entire length of the permanent easements for route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05 are candidates for three-lift handling and should be prioritized for the three-lift soil handling procedure.

Table 2: The agricultural soils along route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05, not accounted for within AIS #4262, that are candidates for the three-lift soil handling method.

Route	Soil Map Unit Symbol*	Soil Map Unit Name	Landowner(s)		Impacted Land (Acres)
	CcC2	Casco Sandy Loam	Michael L Zang		0.50
	FmB	Fox Sandy Loam	Michael L Zang		0.49
	FoB	Fox Loam	Michael L Zang		0.26
	FoC2	Fox Loam	Michael L Zang		0.28
310-04	FsA	Fox Silt Loam	Michael L Zang		0.19
	FsB	Fox Silt Loam	Michael L Zang		0.72
	MkA	Matherton Loam	Michael L Zang		0.10
			Т	otal	2.54
	Dt	Drummer Silt Loam	Richard F Frederick		0.40
SIG-05	Dt	Drummer Silt Loam	RRAM Productions Inc.		1.04
			Т	otal	1.44
			Grand T	otal	3.98

*The third letter within the soil map unit symbol (i.e the A, within symbol FsA) represents the percent slope of the soil as follows: A = 0 - 3%, B = 2 - 6%, C = 6 - 12%, D = 12 - 20%, E = 20 - 30%

Therefore, the Department advises the three-lift soil handling procedure for the following agricultural lands impacted by the route modifications below:

- The entire length of modification SIG-04 on parcel ID: 002021908017000 (Appendix A: Figures 2)
- The entire length of modification SIG-05 on parcel IDs: 45-4-221-051-0161 and 45-4-221-091-0201 (Appendix A: Figures 3)

The Department defers the final determination of three-lift soil handling procedures to the Agricultural Inspector, so to allow for the verification that the soil characteristics and conditions described in Appendix B are met.

Affected Agricultural Property

The reconfiguration of the Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route to accommodate modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area will affect the five landowners shown in Table 3. DATCP contacted landowners whom had a net increase of one or more acres of newly affected agricultural land (Table 3) to assess the impacts the route modifications will have to their agricultural operations. Of the landowners contacted, Michael L Zang and the Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust were willing to provide comments.

Table 3: Agricultural landowners and agricultural lands (acres) affected by route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area. The original discarded route acreages shown are the sum of temporary and permanent easements specifically for the area of the route no longer utilized and does not reflect the total acres of land impacted by the pipeline for any landowner.

		Original Discarded Route (acres)	Newly Affected	Net Acerage	
Route	Agricultural Landowner		Permanent ROW (acres)	Temporary ROW (acres)	Change (acres)
SIG-04	Michael L Zang	3.79	2.60	2.72	1.53
	Thomas O Winkler	3.62	0.00	0.00	-3.62
SIG-05	Richard F Frederick	0.00	0.40	0.51	0.91
	RRAM Productions Inc.	2.66	1.40	1.50	0.24
Staging Area	Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust	0.0*	0.00	6.92	6.92

*The staging area was not part of the original route planned for the Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust property

Michael L. Zang and Barbara Bakshis

Route modification SIG-04 will impact a total of 5.32 acres of agricultural lands owned by Michael L. Zang and Barbara Bakshis (Appendix A: Figure 2). Michael and Barbara are agricultural landowners identified within AIS #4262 with existing impacts from the Lakeshore Lateral Pipeline Route A-R2. Route modification SIG-04 represents a net increase of 1.53 acres or 40% as compared to the original route no longer utilized (Table

3). The vast majority (3.91 acres or 73%) of the agricultural lands they own that are impacted by SIG-04 hold some level of Federal USDA or State priority designation as either prime farmland, prime farmland if drained or farmland of statewide importance (Table 1). Furthermore, nearly all (4.74 acres or 89%) of the agricultural soils impacted by route modification SIG-04 on the Michael L. Zang and Barbara Bakshis property are tilled agricultural soils used for crop production (corn and soybean rotation).

Michael L. Zang and Barbara Bakshis reported they had requested this revision to the Lakeshore Lateral Pipeline, known as SIG-04, in order to preserve several acres of mature forest and natural habitat where the A-R2 pipeline route was originally sited. While modification SIG-04 does satisfy their goal of preserving the forest and natural habitat, Michael and Barbara reported the following concerns regarding the Lakeshore Lateral Pipeline:

- General concern that We Energies return the impacted land, to the best of their abilities, to its original state prior to construction.
- Pipeline work already performed by We Energies adjacent to their western property boundary next to Yahnke Road, has created a large depression. Michael and Barbara believe this new depression will collect and pond water that could promote unwanted insect populations, such as mosquitoes. Michael and Barbara request that We Energies return the area back to its original elevation by filling in the depression.
- We Energies remove refuse created throughout their woodland areas as a result of clearing activities by We Energies.
- We Energies monitor the pipeline for leaks that may damage crops or property.

Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust

The Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust holds agricultural lands that were identified within AIS #4262 as being impacted by Lakeshore Lateral Pipeline Route A-R2. The relocation of the 9.95 acre Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline project staging area to the field owned by the Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust, overlaps with existing permanent and temporary easements shown in Appendix A: Figure 4. As a result, the relocated staging area will impact an additional 6.92 acres of agricultural lands owned by the Trust that were not identified within AIS #4262. All of the additional 6.92 acres of the agricultural land owned by the Trust are tilled soils for crop production and hold a Federal USDA designation as either prime farmland, or prime farmland if drained (Table 1).

Kenneth Schmitt spoke on behalf of the Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust and reported they voluntarily entered into an agreement with We Energies to lease the agricultural land for the relocated staging area (Appendix A: Figure 4). Kenneth reported the following concerns regarding the relocated project staging area:

- General concern that drain tiles may be located within the project staging area, which may be damaged.
- Concern the construction of the staging area, which requires the temporary removal and piling of topsoil, will lead to the erosion and loss of topsoil.
- To accommodate Kenneth's concerns over his own mobility, Kenneth requests that We Energies contact him in-person or by phone when construction starts or to discuss project related matters.

Agricultural Property Impact Analysis

The addition of SIG-04, SIG-05 and relocated project staging area has the potential to place previously known impacts established within AIS #4262 (DATCP, 2019) onto the agricultural landowners identified in Table 3. As modified, the ROW's for SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated project staging area are located farther within the affected agricultural parcels owned by Michael L. Zang, the Kenneth S. Schmitt Trust and RRAM Productions Inc. than were previously planned for in route A-R2.

Moving the pipeline ROW farther into these agricultural parcels creates the potential for additional agricultural impacts. For example, heavy construction equipment such as excavators potentially weighing over 50 tons will now move diagonally across parcel ID: 002021908017000 (Appendix A: Figure 2) and directly impact parcel IDs: 45-4-221-051-0161 and K LF2700003 (Appendix A: Figure 3 and 4). UW-Extension report A3367 states that heavy equipment with axle loads that exceed 10 tons increase the risk of soil compaction into subsoil layers that cannot be removed by conventional tillage (Wolkowski and Lowery, 2008); suggesting that the aforementioned agricultural parcels are at risk of soil and sub-soil compaction. In addition, research has shown that construction of pipelines, such as the Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline, can negatively impact soil properties, soil health and crop yields for up to a decade within the ROW depending on the type and severity of construction impacts (e.g equipment axle weight, use of excavation, intermixing of soil layer etc.) (Culley and DOW 1988; Shi *et al.*, 2014).

Generally, significant route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area will shift the burden of agricultural impacts onto a selection of existing landowners and

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operators, while mitigating impacts to other existing landowners. Overall, 9.07 acres of prime farmland soils and another 5.07 acres of prime farmland if drained will be impacted by the revisions to the A-R2 pipeline route. These areas of productive farmland each area may experience several negative impacts for years after the Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline has been completed, including but not limited to:

- Soil compaction, potentially subsoil compaction, within the temporary ROW from construction equipment
- Intermixing of topsoil and subsoil layers within the permanent ROW from trench excavation and pipeline installation
- Decreased soil health and fertility throughout the entire ROW
- Decreased crop yield throughout the entire ROW

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

DATCP continues to support all of the recommendations made in the original AIS as well as Addendum #4362 and re-emphasizes the following subset of recommendations pertaining to Addendum #4381 and new specific recommendations for route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and the relocated staging area:

New Recommendations Specific to route modifications SIG-04, SIG-05 and Staging Area:

- We Energies inform the project Agricultural Inspector of the potential need for the three-lift soil handling procedure for the following agricultural lands specific to route modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05:
 - The entire length of modification SIG-04 on parcel ID: 002021908017000
 - The entire length of modification SIG-05 on parcel IDs: 45-4-221-051-0161 and 45-4-221-091-0201

Subset of AIS #4262 Recommendations

We Energies retain a dedicated Agricultural Inspector for this project due to the extensive use of drain tiling on many of the potentially affected farms. Damage to drain tiling can cause significant harm to the future productivity of farmland.

- The Agricultural Inspector should assist with pre-construction discussions between the utility and agricultural property owners, conduct inspections of construction activities through agricultural properties, and monitor the implementation of the project-specific Agricultural Mitigation Plan (AMP) and Best Management Practices (BMPs). The Agricultural Inspector should be familiar with agricultural practices and gas pipeline construction impacts and mitigation, as well as have knowledge in agronomy, soil conservation, and soil identification.
- The Agricultural Inspector share periodic construction reports with Department staff.
- We Energies inform affected agricultural property owners who have potential three-lift candidate soils on their land and how three-lift soil handling could preserve the productivity of their fields.
- We Energies work with agricultural landowners to minimize impacts to farmland and farm operations, including drainage tiles, erosion controls, grassed waterways, fencing, drainage channels and farm access roads.
- We Energies implement appropriate training for all construction supervisors, inspectors, and crews to ensure that they understand and properly implement the Agricultural Mitigation Plan (AMP) and Best Management Practices (BMP) so that the integrity of agricultural lands and operations are protected during project construction and restoration.
- We Energies make reasonable efforts to ensure that both owners and renters of agricultural land affected by the proposed project are kept up-to-date and informed of construction schedules and potential impacts.
- We Energies should work with landowners to restore agricultural properties impacted by construction activities to pre-construction function and address concerns resulting from construction.
- Prior to the start of construction, landowners should identify for We Energies where construction activities may interfere with farm operations and where farm facilities are located including, drain tiles, wells, watering systems, fencing, farm access roads, or grain bins.

- Landowners should work with We Energies to schedule agricultural operations during each phase of pipeline construction.
- Landowners should work with the agriculture inspector to ensure impacts to agricultural land are mitigated whenever possible. If any infrastructure such as drain tiles or fencing is damaged by construction activities, landowners should document and photograph the damage and any repair efforts conducted on behalf of We Energies to ensure the repair is adequate.
- After construction is completed, landowners and the utility should carefully monitor for the emergence of drainage problems. If problems are observed that can be attributed to pipeline construction, the landowner and We Energies should work together to develop a mutually agreeable solution.

IV. REFERENCES

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V. DISTRIBUTION LIST

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Governor

Governor Tony Evers

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Honorable Joan Ballweg (Committee on Agriculture) Honorable Stephen L. Nass (Senate District 11) Honorable Van H. Wangaard (Senate District 21)

State Assembly

Honorable Gary Tauchen (Committee on Agriculture) Honorable Tyler August (Assembly District 32) Honorable Samantha Kerkman (Assembly District 61) Honorable Robin Vos (Assembly District 63)

Federal, State and Local Units of Government

Wisconsin Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) DATCP Public Information Officer – Kevin Hoffman DATCP Legislative Liaison - Bradford Steine DATCP Administrator, Agricultural Resource Management Division - Sara Walling DATCP Director, Bureau of Land and Water - Lacey Cochart Kenosha County Kenosha County Clerk - Regi Bachochin Kenosha County Conservationist - Mark Jenks **Racine County** Racine County Clerk - Wendy Christensen Racine County Conservationist - Chad Sampson Walworth County Walworth County Clerk - Kimberly Bushey Walworth County Land Use and Resource Management Department - Michael Cotter Town of Burlington Town of Burlington Administrator - Brian Graziano Town of Burlington Clerk - Jeanne Rennie Town of Lafayette Town of Lafayette Chair – Daniel Cooper Town of Lafayette Clerk - Barbara Fischer Town of Paris Town of Paris Chair - John Holloway Town of Paris Clerk - Diana Coughlin

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Interest Groups, Entities and Individuals

Michael Zang Barbara Bakshis Kenneth Schmitt Thomas Winkler Richard Frederick RRAM Productions Inc. WEC Energies Group Devan Zammuto



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VI. APPENDICES

DATCP **#**4381

Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline Project Addendum

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VII. APPENDIX A: MAPS

Figure 1: Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route with modifications SIG-04 and SIG-05 as well as the relocated staging area (Stasik, 2020a).



Figure 2: Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route modification SIG-04 located within the Town of Burlington in Racine County, WI.



Figure 3: Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline route modification SIG-05 located within the Town of Paris in Kenosha County, WI.



Figure 4: Lakeshore Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline relocated stage area located within the Town of Lafayette in Walworth County, WI.



VIII. APPENDIX B: THREE-LIFT SOIL CANDIDATE KEY



This key is applicable to soil profiles with distinct B and C horizons or alternatively to soil profiles with distinct upper and lower B horizons.

1. Soils with a slope greater than 12 percent are Class IV soils, likely to be eroded with shallow topsoil, and marginally suited for crop production. As such, they are unlikely to meet the criteria for soils that would benefit from three-lift soil handling.

2. Poorly drained soils tend to be too wet to use three-lift soil handling successfully. They are also likely to be deep soils.



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