



Marion County
Board of County Commissioners

McPherson Governmental Complex

601 SE 25th Ave.
Ocala, FL 34471
Phone: 352-438-2323
Fax: 352-438-2324

March 30, 2016

Brian Fahrenthold
Director of Governmental Affairs
Sabal Trail Transmission
5400 Westheimer Court
Houston, TX 77056

RE: Sabal Trail Transmission and Citrus County Line projects within Marion County, Fla.

Dear Mr. Fahrenthold:

More than 30 miles of pipeline are expected to be installed within Marion County, Fla. for the Sabal Trail Transmission and Sabal Trail Citrus County Line projects. These pipelines will cross important agricultural and sensitive environmental lands. While construction on these lands is not unusual in Marion County, this project is unique. To this end, we would like to obtain a better understanding of certain project considerations and recommend a few, as well. The citizens of Marion County continue to ask these questions and we trust your agency can provide assurances that can be shared with them.

Project reports recognize that Marion County is karst sensitive, with much of the project area having lime rock within only several feet of the ground surface. This project passes within 1 mile of the headspring of Rainbow Springs, which is one of Florida's largest first-magnitude springs. The flow paths that feed this spring are part of an underground karst network that reaches far beyond the county's northern and western boundaries. These paths produce average flows greater than 700 cubic feet per second (CFS), supporting a significant and highly-sensitive natural environment.

FERC Docket No. CP15-17-000 Appendix F (Sabal Trail Project Karst Mitigation Plan Florida Southeast Connection Project Karst Plan) includes Table B-1, which identifies the location and area of closed topographic depressions and other karst features at and within 0.25-mile of the FSC Project. However, Table B-1 only lists locations from mile post 0 to 126.3. Marion County is approximately between mile post 369 to 399. We would like to obtain this data for Marion County. Also, please provide any information regarding the pipeline's integrity and how it can withstand ground collapsing and formation of large-diameter sinkholes.

Project details indicate that topsoil will be preserved and used to re-cover the pipe. We would like to know what measures will be taken in wetland areas to demonstrate no wetland impacts, both horizontally and vertically.

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"

On project work encompassing agricultural properties (by land use or zoning), we would like to request that additional construction depths greater than three feet of cover be considered. Cattle activities, particularly those of bulls, will readily dig and/or burrow to depths of at least three feet. Cover depth of no less than five feet should be considered on agricultural properties.

Regarding the compressor station, we understand its location may have changed within Marion County and we would like to know where it is currently proposed. Please relay what we should expect to see and hear at a compressor station, as well as what onsite mitigation is being proposed to control noise and make the site(s) visually appealing.

While some of the pipeline uses existing corridors for road or other transmission networks, much of it does not. We encourage the use of these existing right-of-ways when possible, and even running parallel as much as possible.

Marion County welcomes your feedback on the above-listed concerns and appreciates your evaluation of the proposed considerations. Through this partnership, we will be able to provide our citizens a clearer understanding of the magnitude of the Sabal Trail projects.

Lastly, we extend an invitation to your team to conduct another public presentation addressing these concerns and comments. We appreciated the project overview provided by your team last fall and know it will be a welcome public information avenue for our community. You may contact Nadja Griffis, our commission assistant, at 352-438-2323 or nadja.griffis@marioncountyfl.org for coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Bryant
Chairman