

W/2610/64

MINISTRY OF POWER
Thames House South, Millbank, LONDON S.W.1
Telephone: Abbey 7000

Please address any reply to
THE SECRETARY
and quote:
P.E.6901/9

1st September, 1964.

Your reference:

Gentlemen,

Pipe-lines Act 1962
United Kingdom Oil Pipelines Limited
Application for a Pipeline Construction Authorisation

I am directed by the Minister of Power to refer to your application for authorisation under section 1(1) of the Pipe-lines Act 1962 of the construction of a cross-country pipeline to convey light petroleum products between the Thames Estuary, Stanwell in the County of Middlesex, the Midlands, and the Mersey. A public inquiry with respect to objections to the application was held jointly by Mr. A.K. Pollock, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., and Mr. A.R. Chown, M.A., K.T.P.I., Dip.T.P., of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, at Watford, Rugby and Lichfield, in April and May 1964. A copy of the Inspectors' report enclosed.

2. The Inspectors recommended that construction of the pipeline should be authorised on the route advertised in March 1964, subject to the following diversions:-

- (a) that which they recommended at Arlington Hall Farm, Syonstone Manor Farm, Winterdyne Farm and Foxway Farm;
- (b) that which had been agreed with Mr. Isaac at Ashley Green, Buckinghamshire; and
- (c) those which had been agreed since March 1964 as listed in the schedule submitted during the inquiry, but omitting that shown on Plan ER3/4/6.

The Minister accepts this recommendation.

3. The Inspectors considered that the next serious objection to the advertised route of the pipeline related to that section which crossed the swallowhole area of the Lee Valley Water Company. They stated that it would not be easy, however, to decide on an alternative practicable route which would avoid this swallowhole area without making a very wide and expensive cut and this would be difficult to justify. A reduction of width to the narrow of the Lee Valley Water Company might increase the risks in other directions. The Inspectors stated that in their opinion the best solution would be to rely on stringent safety precautions throughout this length, and indeed over all the sections which cross swallowhole areas of water undertakings or underground aquifers which are not covered by a continuous covering of impervious material. In addition to the Lee Valley Water Company this would apply to sections within the limits of the following:-

/undersigned-

United Kingdom Oil Pipelines Ltd.,
3, Savoy Place,
LONDON, W.C. 2.

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undertakings:- South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, Staffordshire Potteries Water Board, Leicester Corporation, River Dove Water Board, Mid and S.E. Cheshire Water Board and the Metropolitan Water Board.

4. The Minister agrees with the Inspectors that it would be difficult to justify a diversion to avoid the swallowhole area of the Lee Valley Water Company and that it would be preferable to rely on stringent safety precautions in respect of this length and of the sections of the pipeline which will traverse the underground and surface encroachments of other water undertakers. He intends to give further consideration to the safety precautions to be adopted both on these sections and generally, in consultation with your company and with the water undertakers referred to above, with a view to imposing requirements under sections 20 and 23 of the Act before construction work is begun. To this end, you are requested to submit to the Department as soon as convenient, for the attention of the Pipeline Inspector, your detailed proposals for the design of the pipeline, the internal and construction specifications, the safety precautions to be adopted generally and the additional safety precautions to be applied in the areas referred to above. In doing so, it would be helpful if you would indicate the extent to which these proposals have been agreed with the water undertakers concerned.

The Inspectors also drew attention to the suggestion made by Mr. Nelson Davies of the Mid and S.E. Cheshire Water Board, and endorsed by your company, regarding the setting up of a joint committee representing the water supply industry and the oil industry to study the problem of oil pollution of water supplies and devise methods of dealing with it should it occur. The Minister welcomes this suggestion and will be ready to give any help he can in implementing it.

6. The Inspectors recommended that general limits of deviation should be authorized of 200 feet on either side of the line shown on the deposited plans subject to the agreement of the owner of the land. The Minister agrees that the limits of deviation which should be specified should be 200 feet. It is, however, unnecessary to qualify these limits as being subject to the agreement of the owner of the land, because authorization under the Act does not carry with it any rights over land and the pipeline cannot therefore be placed anywhere within the limits of deviation without the agreement of all persons having an interest in the land (or, in default of agreement, a compulsory order made in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Second Schedule to the Act).

7. The Inspectors recommended that deemed planning permission should be granted, and that no conditions should be attached thereto. The Warwickshire County Council had requested conditions requiring that highway crossings should be subject to the approval of the highway authority and that the siting and external appearance of all above-ground installations should be subject to the approval of the local planning authority. The Inspectors considered that control over highway crossings was already provided by section 15 of the Act. They accepted that the company would consult the local planning authority with regard to above-ground

/installations,

11. Maps delineating the whole route of the line, with the modifications, are annexed to the authorization. Your attention is drawn to section 35 of the Act requiring deposit of maps with each local authority concerned, and to section 77 requiring arrangements to be made with fire and police authorities, river boards, water undertakers and sewerage authorities to facilitate the carrying out of their duties. Your attention is also invited to the obligation to restore agricultural land imposed by section 45 of the Act and to the Inspectors' comments in the last paragraph on page 33 of their report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) H. Scholes

Assistant Secretary.