

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the application of <b>AMERESCO</b>	)	
<b>WOODLAND MEADOWS ROMULUS LLC</b>	)	
for approval of construction and operation of	)	Case No. U-21782
pipeline in Wayne County, Michigan, for the	)	
transport of high British thermal unit landfill gas.	)	
_____	)	

At the February 27, 2025 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing, Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. Daniel C. Scripps, Chair  
Hon. Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner  
Hon. Alessandra R. Carreon, Commissioner

**ORDER**

On August 19, 2024, Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus LLC (Ameresco) filed an application, with supporting exhibits, pursuant to Public Act 9 of 1929 (Act 9), MCL 483.101 *et seq.*, and the Commission’s Rules for the Production and Transmission of Natural Gas, Mich Admin Code, R 460.851 *et seq.*, requesting *ex parte* approval to install and operate a pipeline associated with a high British thermal unit (HBTU) landfill gas (LFG) project on the Woodland Meadows Recycle and Disposal Facility, owned by Waste Management of Michigan, Inc. (Waste Management) and located in Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Exhibits to the application include a map of the project, lease and easement agreements, an environmental

assessment report, general pipeline specifications,<sup>1</sup> pipeline permit information, and landfill gas generation projections. Ameresco subsequently filed an unanticipated discoveries plan on September 30, 2024.

As stated in the application, the pipeline associated with the HBTU LFG project is a high pressure pipeline, approximately 3,526 feet in length, used to transport HBTU LFG (currently being otherwise flared) from Ameresco's proposed HBTU LFG facility located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 1, T3S, R8E, Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, to a DTE Gas Company remote monitoring station located in the Southeast 1/4 of the Southeast corner of Section 36, T2S, R8E, also in Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan. The application provides that the pipeline will be constructed of 4-inch, schedule 40 (0.237-inch wall) carbon steel pipe and will operate at approximately 340 pounds per square inch gauge. The application further provides that the pipeline will be constructed on Waste Management's property that lies within Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, for which Ameresco has an existing lease and easement from Waste Management, which are intended to be amended to include this project; that Ameresco has received preliminary approval for the project from the Van Buren Township Planning Commission; that Ameresco has received a soil erosion and sediment control permit from Wayne County; that Ameresco is currently awaiting receipt of a construction permit from Wayne County; and that the construction cost of the pipeline is estimated to be \$913,257. Application, pp. 2-3.

The Commission has reviewed the application and exhibits, including the environmental assessment report, and finds that the map, route, and type of construction of the pipeline are

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<sup>1</sup> On September 30, 2024, Ameresco filed an erratum correcting a typo relative to general pipeline specifications for the project (Exhibit A-4).

reasonable and should be approved, subject to such minor changes in location as Ameresco may find necessary upon actual construction. The Commission finds that the proposed pipeline, when constructed and in operation, will serve the convenience and necessity of the public.

According to the environmental assessment report, attached to the application as Exhibit A-3, habitat to support the potential occurrence of threatened and endangered species in Wayne County, Michigan, is not present within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project and the proposed project would result in no effect to such species. For migratory birds, however, the environmental assessment report recommends that a buffer of vegetation remain around any nests, if nesting birds are found, until the young have fledged or the nest is abandoned. The environmental assessment report further indicates that four potentially state-jurisdictional wetlands, open waters, and streams were identified within the project area but notes that such crossings are either permitted, crossed via trenchless construction methods, or avoided by workspace configurations. Application, Exhibit A-3. Ameresco's general pipeline specifications, attached to the application as Exhibit A-4, further describe construction methods for the project, indicating that the pipeline "will be installed via trenching or plowing method, jack and bore and or horizontal directional drilling," with "[a] minimum of 36" of cover . . . provided regardless of the installation method" and with "[b]ackfill . . . placed so that settlement does not occur after restoration of the right of way." Application, Exhibit A-4, p. 4.

Having reviewed the application and environmental assessment report, the Commission concludes that, given the construction methods that Ameresco has agreed to employ to minimize adverse environmental impacts when constructing the pipeline, along with the pipeline's proposed route, there will be minor impairment to the environment if the pipeline is constructed as proposed, but there is no other feasible and prudent alternative to this impairment. Further, the

Commission finds that any environmental impairment caused by the proposed pipeline is *de minimis* and “consistent with the promotion of the public health, safety and welfare in light of the state’s paramount concern for the protection of its natural resources from pollution, impairment or destruction.” *Mich State Hwy Comm v Vanderkloot*, 392 Mich 159, 185; 220 NW2d 416 (1974) (quoting MCL 691.1203, which has been replaced by MCL 324.1703).

The Commission finds that the filed application and exhibits support the required agency review and environmental obligations of the Commission that arise from Michigan’s Environmental Protection Act, MCL 324.1701 *et seq.* The Commission notes, however, that a finding of public convenience and necessity pursuant to Act 9 does not determine that the proposed project complies with any other applicable statutes or environmental reviews.

The Commission further finds that *ex parte* review and approval are appropriate because the application does not seek to increase rates and because Ameresco’s existing lease and easement from Waste Management is intended to be amended to include land rights needed for this project. *See*, application, pp. 2-3. The Commission additionally notes that, consistent with the Commission’s Tribal Involvement Guide, the Commission’s Tribal Liaison sent an application overview and invitation for informal consultation to all of Michigan’s federally recognized Tribes. No Michigan Tribe requested an informal consultation regarding this application; however, in response to the Commission’s Tribal Liaison invitation for informal consultation, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians notified the Commission Staff that there are no historic properties in the area of potential effects significant to their Tribe. The Commission finally also notes the discovery plan provided by Ameresco detailing the proper procedures to follow in the event that unanticipated cultural materials or human remains are encountered during construction.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus LLC is authorized to construct and operate the pipeline in Van Buren Township, Wayne County, Michigan, as proposed in its application filed on August 19, 2024, and subject to the requirements of Public Act 9 of 1929, MCL 483.101 *et seq.*

B. The map, route, and type of construction of the pipeline are approved, allowing for minor route deviations where necessary; however, Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus LLC shall not begin construction until all necessary easements and permits have been acquired.

C. Within 60 days after completion of construction, Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus LLC shall file with the Commission a completion report, including pressure test data and a map of the pipeline as constructed.

D. If Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus LLC provides transportation for others, it shall file with the Commission signed transportation contracts and shall provide transportation in a nondiscriminatory manner.

E. Upon abandonment or deactivation, the pipeline shall be abandoned in accordance with the Michigan Gas Safety Standards, MCL 483.151 *et seq.*

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, pursuant to MCL 462.26. To comply with the Michigan Rules of Court's requirement to notify the Commission of an appeal, appellants shall send required notices to both the Commission's Executive Secretary and to the Commission's Legal Counsel.

Electronic notifications should be sent to the Executive Secretary at [LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov) and to the Michigan Department of Attorney General - Public Service Division at [sheacl@michigan.gov](mailto:sheacl@michigan.gov). In lieu of electronic submissions, paper copies of such notifications may be sent to the Executive Secretary and the Attorney General - Public Service Division at 7109 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing, MI 48917.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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Daniel C. Scripps, Chair

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Katherine L. Peretick, Commissioner

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Alessandra R. Carreon, Commissioner

By its action of February 27, 2025.

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Lisa Felice, Executive Secretary

# PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

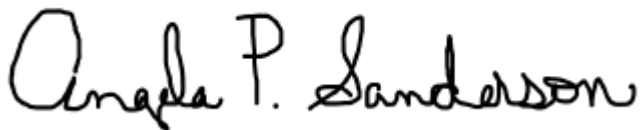
Case No. U-21782

County of Ingham )

Brianna Brown being duly sworn, deposes and says that on February 27, 2025 A.D. she electronically notified the attached list of this **Commission Order via e-mail transmission**, to the persons as shown on the attached service list (Listserv Distribution List).

  
Brianna Brown

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025.



Angela P. Sanderson  
Notary Public, Shiawassee County, Michigan  
As acting in Eaton County  
My Commission Expires: May 21, 2030

**Service List for Case: U-21782**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>On Behalf Of</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus, LLC	Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus, LLC	jdemanche@ameresco.com
Stephen A. Campbell	Ameresco Woodland Meadows Romulus, LLC	scampbell@clarkhill.com