



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS IDENTIFIED FOR DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE
Vermeer, John Deere, and Caterpillar to Manufacture Construction-Related Equipment

DALLAS, SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 – Dakota Access Pipeline, LLC today announced that union contractors Michels Pipeline Construction, a Division of Michels Corporation and Precision Pipeline, LLC have been awarded construction contracts for multiple segments along the 1,134-mile Dakota Access Pipeline, which will provide needed infrastructure to transport domestically produced light sweet crude oil from the Bakken and Three Forks production areas in North Dakota to Patoka, Ill, where shippers will be able to access multiple markets including Midwest, East Coast and Gulf Coast regions. Michels Pipeline and Precision will each construct pipeline segments in North Dakota, South Dakota and Iowa. Ultimately, Dakota Access will sign construction contracts with up to five union contractors.

As part of the agreement, Brownsville, WI-based Michels Pipeline and Eau Claire, WI-based Precision will use 100 percent union labor, with approximately 50 percent of the workers sourced from local halls in each state the pipeline crosses. In anticipation for the project and 2016 demand, it has been estimated that Michels Pipeline and Precision have made commitments exceeding \$200 million to Caterpillar, John Deere, and Vermeer for heavy construction and related equipment, with positive manufacturing impacts to Iowa, Illinois, and the surrounding region. Caterpillar, John Deere, and Vermeer have individually filed letters supporting the project with the respective state utility board or commissions.

Michels Pipeline, which has a field office in Cedar Rapids, IA, will construct segments in Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota totaling 380 miles. Precision will construct segments in Iowa and Illinois totaling 476 miles. Collectively, Michels Pipeline and Precision will employ up to 4,000 people per state. The construction companies yet to be named will construct segments in North Dakota.

The project's overall \$3.78 billion investment will create an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 jobs during construction, providing work for welders, mechanics, electricians, pipefitters, heavy equipment operators and others within the heavy construction industry. Dakota Access maintains that this workforce will be comprised of highly trained personnel and experts in each field, ensuring pipe integrity and its ongoing commitment to safety. This workforce also will generate economic benefit through spending at local restaurants, hotels, laundromats, grocery and convenient stores, pharmacies, etc. The pipeline will contribute hundreds of millions of dollars during construction and the ongoing operation of the pipeline in short- and long-term tax benefits to the states

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and local communities and schools within the project region. Strategic Economics Group of West Des Moines, Iowa estimates that \$156 million in sales and income taxes will be generated during construction, benefiting the counties and states through which the pipeline passes.

“Michels has a strong tradition of corporate social responsibility. A big part of that commitment is safety, quality workmanship and environmental stewardship. Another characteristic of our commitment is to sourcing locally whenever we can on a project. We would expect that tradition to continue on Dakota Access,” said Robert Osborn, senior vice president, Michels Pipeline.

“As a Midwest based company, Precision Pipeline is excited for the opportunity to be part of the Iowa community throughout the coming year in building this critical energy infrastructure project. The project will be constructed across the entire state and will include several communities that will house our warehouse yards and traveling employees. These locations benefit from our business operations that create jobs both on the pipeline and within the local communities. We have invested and plan to continue significant investments in Iowa based companies like John Deere, Vermeer and others as well as regional based companies with Iowa offices or facilities such as Caterpillar. Our goal is to be a socially responsible contractor, great neighbor and to provide a lasting positive impact on the local communities and State,” said Steve Rooney, president, Precision.

"As an Iowa-based manufacturer of the equipment to be used in the Dakota Access Pipeline Project, Vermeer depends on such projects in order to give back to its team members and the communities where they live," said Doug Hundt, Vermeer Corporation president. "With the continuation of the Pipeline, we are excited to serve both Michels Corporation and Precision Pipeline LLC in meeting their equipment needs. Together, we have opportunity to add and secure more jobs within our businesses, and support a progressive economy throughout the Midwest."

“Caterpillar is proud to support the Dakota Access Pipeline project. Energy sources must be developed and used in an environmentally sustainable manner and also delivered in a responsible way, and this pipeline is a prime example of that,” said Tom Pellette, Caterpillar Inc. group president with responsibility for Construction Industries. “From a Caterpillar perspective, we and our eight Cat® dealers in North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Illinois – who will help support this project – employ nearly 25,000 people at about 80 locations. Access to affordable and dependable energy resources is critical for energy security and economic prosperity, and we look forward to helping our customers succeed in the completion of this project by delivering world-class construction equipment to these areas in which we live and work.”

According to the letter filed by John Deere with the Iowa Utilities Board: John Deere employs more than 15,000 Iowans in manufacturing facilities throughout the state of Iowa, including two construction equipment factories in Davenport and Dubuque. Deere has contractual relationships with over 1,400 Iowa suppliers totaling more than \$2.6 billion annually. John Deere equipment is available through more than 100 independently-owned equipment dealerships in Iowa, which sell and service equipment to support our customers. If the Bakken Pipeline is permitted, Deere and its dealers would have an opportunity to provide the equipment and technologies necessary to build it, providing further economic benefits and job security for Iowans.

Dakota Access expects permit approvals by late 2015 with a projected start of construction in the first Quarter of 2016. The pipeline is expected to be in service by late 2016.

For more information visit DAPLpipelinefacts.com or call toll-free 844-708-2639.

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