



## ***Enclosure 26***

# ***Revised Invasive Species Plan***



***ROVER PIPELINE LLC***

***Rover Pipeline Project***

***Invasive Species Plan***

***September 2016***



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Rover Pipeline Project (Project) is a new natural gas pipeline system that will be constructed by Rover Pipeline LLC (Rover) and will consist of Supply Lateral and Mainline pipelines, compressor stations, and associated meter stations and other aboveground facilities that will be located in parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. While the region encompassing the Project area is not prone to aggressive invasive species that would require extensive preconstruction measures, this Invasive Species Plan outlines the procedures Rover would implement to minimize the spread of invasive species.

## **2.0 INVASIVE SPECIES PLAN**

In order to prevent the introduction of invasive species to the area, Rover will require construction contractors to wash their equipment prior to initial entrance into the construction area. Equipment washing will be conducted through the use of a spraying system supplied by a water truck or trailer and an appropriate pump. Runoff containment to avoid spread of invasive seeds at the wash site will be used, as needed. Potential runoff containment systems may include: geotextile cloth, constructed berms, flexible mats, portable elevated washracks, or a combination of methods. In general, cleaning water will not be recycled. If it is necessary to recycle cleaning water due to water supply issues, then an appropriate filtration device will be used to remove any invasive plant materials prior to reuse to prevent cross-contamination of equipment.

During construction Rover will employ several measures to minimize the spread of invasive species:

- Follow the Rover Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation and Maintenance Plan (Rover Plan), the Rover Wetland and Waterbody Procedures (Rover Procedures), and the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plans (AIMP) for Ohio and Michigan to minimize the movement of spoil and the associated movement of invasive and non-native seeds.
- Installation of sediment/erosion control devices across the construction right-of-way at the base of slopes leading into wetlands (and along the edge of the construction right-of-way as appropriate) to prevent spoil from migrating into wetland areas. Installation of silt fences will also help to prevent the dispersion of seeds from invasive plant species into wetlands during construction.
- Expediting construction in and around wetlands to reduce the duration of disturbances.
- Expediting revegetation of non-saturated wetlands by stripping the topsoil from over the trench in accordance with the Rover Procedures. Topsoil will be stockpiled separately from the subsoil to insure preservation of the native seed bank.

During the restoration phase of the Project, Rover will monitor for any areas where the species may become established and control them in accordance with the Rover Plan, Rover Procedures, and the AIMP for Ohio and Michigan, and any additional requirements in other federal or state permits or clearances. These requirements are designed to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species, noxious weeds, and soil pests resulting from construction or restoration activities.



- Conduct follow-up inspections of all disturbed areas, as necessary, to determine the success of revegetation and address landowner concerns. At a minimum, conduct inspections after the first and second growing seasons.
- Revegetation in non-agricultural areas will be considered successful if upon visual survey the density and cover of non-nuisance vegetation are similar in density and cover to adjacent undisturbed lands.
- Revegetation in wetlands will be considered successful only if invasive species and noxious weeds are absent, unless they are abundant in adjacent areas that were not disturbed by construction.
- In agricultural lands:
  - On any right-of-way over which Rover has jurisdiction as to its surface use, (i.e., valve sites, metering stations, compression stations, etc.), Rover will provide for weed control in a manner that prevents the spread of weeds onto adjacent lands used for agricultural purposes. Spraying will be done by a pesticide applicator that is appropriately licensed for doing such work in the state.
  - Should Rover fail to control weeds after being given written notice and a 45-day opportunity to respond, Rover will be responsible for reimbursing all reasonable costs for weed control incurred by owners of land adjacent to surface facilities when the land accommodating the pipeline surface facility is determined to be the weed source.
- Rover intends to control the spread of diseases such as oak wilt through adherence to federal- and state-specific regulations for preventing the spread of this disease by burning or chipping the wood resulting from all clearing activities.
- Rover will ensure that in agricultural lands where imported soil materials are employed for backfill, the imported soil materials would be free from noxious weeds and other pests to the extent possible;
- Quarterly activity reports documenting the results of follow-up inspections will be provided to the FERC as required by Rover's Plan, Section VII.A.1. These reports will identify any problem areas, including those identified by the landowner, and corrective actions taken for at least 2 years following construction.
- If revegetation does not meet the established criteria, Rover will develop a site-specific plan for the species of concern in consultation with the appropriate federal or state agencies.