In the Matter of the Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for the order accepting certification of permit issued in docket HP09-001 to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline.

HP14-001

My testimony and discovery is based on any and all conditions of permit and findings of fact that pertain to the reclamation of the land.

April 21st, 2015

Diana Steskal ~ Individual Intervenor 707 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Stuart NE 68780 402-924-3186

# Diana Steskal ~ Testimony on the HP14-001

Hello, my name is Diana Steskal, from Stuart Nebraska, a concern citizen of the United States, acting as an individual intervener. I would like to state that I am not an expert farmer or photographer; I am here today to testify about my concerns of accepting the certification of a permit for TransCanada to construct the Keystone XL pipeline. I feel that TransCanada has not been a good neighbor to the people of United States. They have made statements about land reclamation ~ "How they will leave the land in better shape than they found it." I have witness an area in Miner County, where a land reclamation on an easement of the Keystone I, it has been on going since 2009. On November 7, 2014 ~ I visited the Mike and Sue Sibson farm, I asked question of the Sibson's, and took pictures of the easement area. This easement crosses native grass, farm ground, a wetland, native grass and ends up going thru a wetland and waterway. I believe that this easement area in 2014 after 5 years is NOT in better shape than before construction started, you can see by comparing it to the native grasses on the outer edge of the easement, shown in the pictures of Exhibit G. The easement looks like it has weeds, sparse habitat growing, and holes in the ground over the pipeline, due to the varmints burrowing into the higher temperature soil.

I would like to share from my Exhibit F ~ Reclamation Timeline by Sue Sibson:

- 1). September 30, 2009 ~ Reclamation and seeding native grasses
- 2). 2010: Easement area full of weeds not much grass growing. TC sprayed the easement area.
- 3). August 2011 ~ TC was back to do total reclamation on the mile and a quarter easement area. Native grass was once again reseeded (wrong seed mixture was planted in 2009).

4). August 2011 ~ Right of way ridges were leveled off, the ground cracks ~ areas were deep ripped to fill voids and leveled.

5). In 2009 ~ TC and landowner signed construction agreement ~ all rock was to be hauled away. Michels Construction Co. pushed and buried the rocks into the easement area during construction. August 2011~75 ton of rock was hauled off easement area.

- 6). September 2012 ~ TC is back again to do some more reclamation. The easement area by the county road is now dry enough to work on the land. Mowing, dirt work and native grass reseeding is the plan. The 80 acres will be reseeded over the top of the grass seed planted in 2011. There is little native grass growing in the easement area. The crop ground showed loss of crop again.
- 7). August 2013 ~ Frank Maddox & Eric Munz looked at easement area. The thickspike wheat grass is becoming more of a problem. Very little if any other native grass growing.
- 8). May 2014 ~ Easement area sprayed with roundup and area mowed. Frank has had trouble trying to get rid of the thickspike wheat grass using spray. Area had to be sprayed twice.
- 9). August 2014 ~ Easement area replanted with native grass mixture ~ have a tag.
- 10). November 7, 2014 ~ Terry & Cheri Frisch, Byron Steskal and myself visited the easement area. Took pictures (Exhibits G)

When we were visiting with the Sibson's they expressed concerns that it has taken 5 years for the reclamation of the ROW easement of their land which has been reseeded 4 times, along with loss of pasture for their cattle, (which the cattle would not eat the grasses that have been planted), and also having a crop loss. Commissioner Johnson in 2010 toured the Sibson easement ROW; he had concerns about Keystones ability to maintain quality control when it comes to clean up and reclamation. He discussed with the Sibson's some of their hardships they felt had suffered during the process from the trespass early in the project, trash left on the

ROW, and the reclamation issues they had in 2010. In September 2014, Commissioner Gary Hansen visited the Sibson farm to look at the ROW easement area, as it had been replanted in August of 2014.

I believe there is a big concern if TransCanada has the ability to have a quality control of their contractors when it comes to reclamation of the land therefore I believe that this is just one small tip of an iceberg of many things that need to be addressed before renewing TransCanada's Keystone XL permit.

The pipeline is not an asset on the landowner's balance sheet, it is a liability. The landowner should carry absolutely NO risk concerning pipelines or their abandonment. It is unreasonable to expect a landowner to cover these costs.

Diana & Stestal

## HP 14-001

# Diana Steskal ~ Testimony

Exhibit A ~ Property Addresses / Landowners / Witnesses

Exhibit B ~ TransCanada Keystone Pipeline Easement Area

Exhibit C ~ US Dept. of Agriculture Farm Service Agency

 $1 \sim 28-106N-57W$ 

 $2 \sim 33-106N-57W$ 

Exhibit D ~ Sue Sibson's Affidavit

Exhibit E ~ Terry & Cheri Frisch Affidavit

Exhibit  $F \sim \text{Reclamation of Timeline } (1-2)$ 

Exhibit G ~ Sibson's Easement Pictures (1-31)

Exhibit A

Pictures: Taken on November 07, 2014

Mike and Sue Sibson Property 23782 426<sup>th</sup> Ave Howard SD 57349

Miner County ~ Roswell Township Legal ~ S1/2SW1/4 28-106-57 NW1/4SW1/4 33-106-57

Witness: Byron and Diana Steskal 707 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
Stuart NE 68780

Terry and Cheri Frisch 47591 875<sup>th</sup> Rd Atkinson NE 68713

Mike and Sue Sibson 23782 426<sup>th</sup> Ave Howard SD 57349

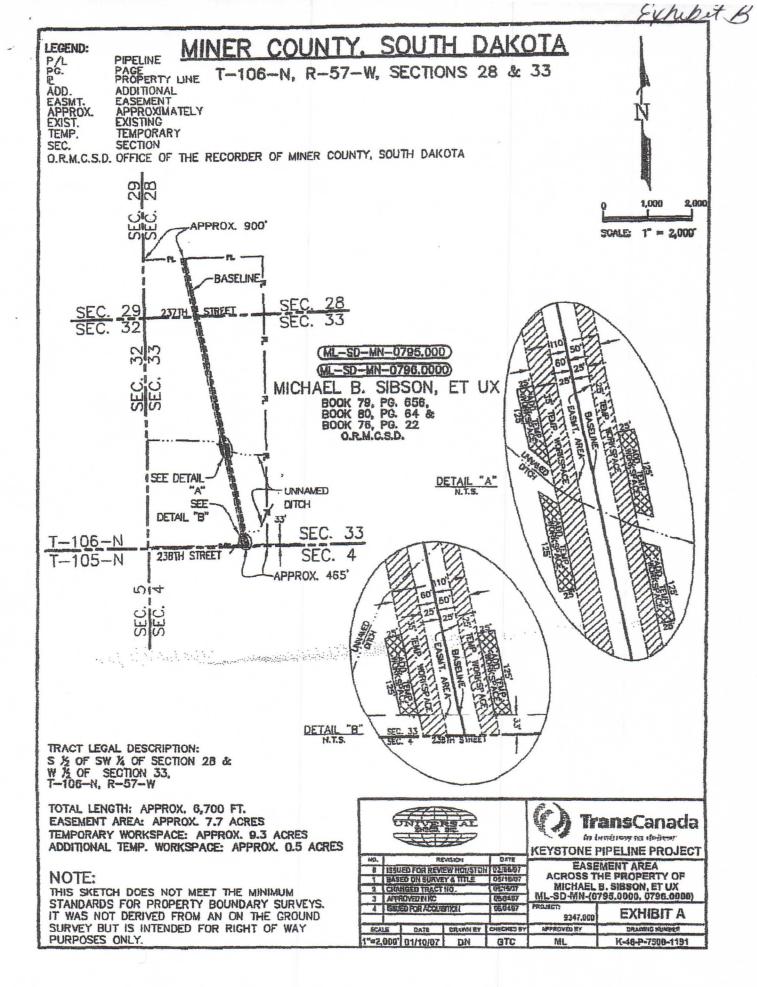
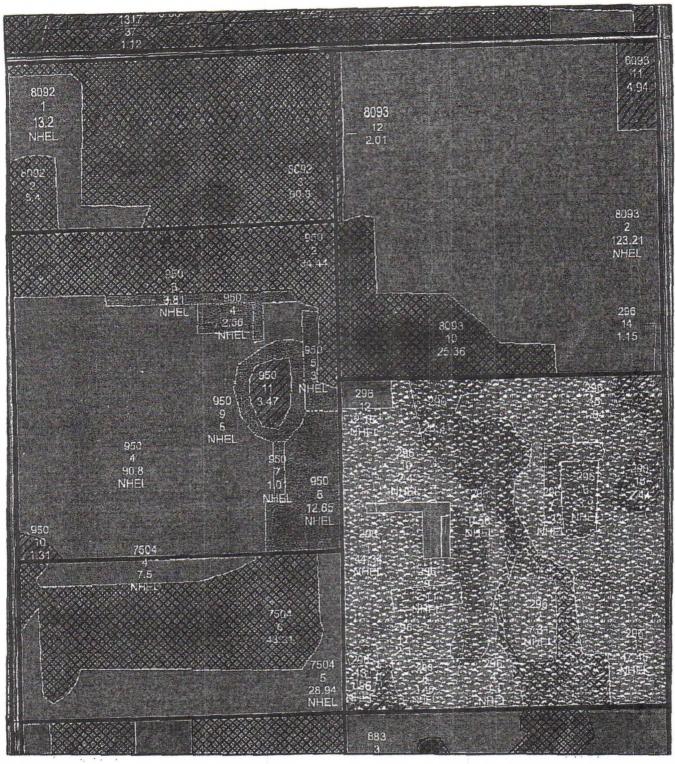


Exhibit C-1





United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency

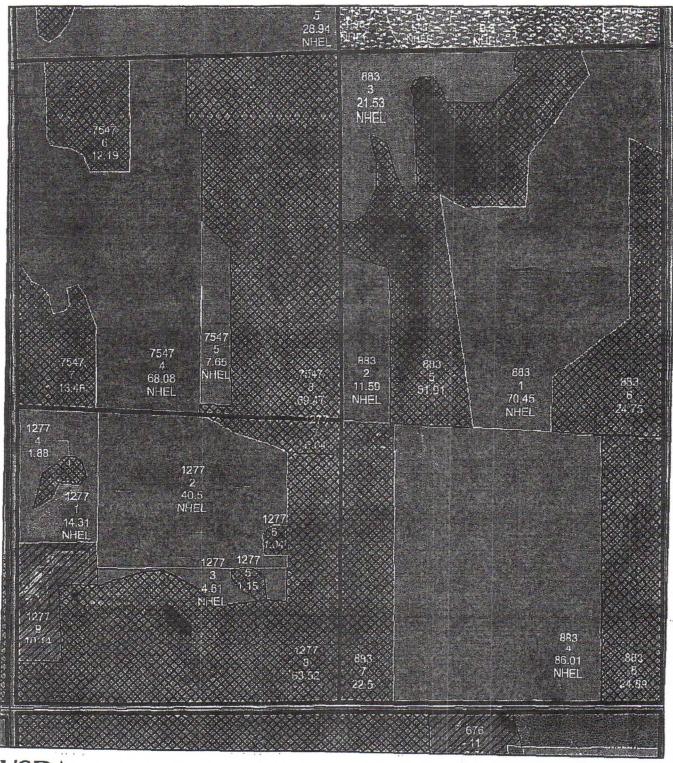
**Miner County** 

1:8,588

March 20, 2007

28-106N-57W

Exhibit CZ





United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency

**Miner County** 

1:8,640

March 20, 2007

33-106N-57W

Exhibit D

#### STATE of SOUTH DAKOTA

### **COUNTY OF MINER**

SUSAN SIBSON came and appeared before me, the undersigned Notary, the within named Susan Sibson who is a resident of Miner County, State of South Dakota and makes this her statement and general affidavit upon oath and affirmation of belief and personal knowledge that the following matters, facts and things set forth are true and correct to the best of her knowledge.

On November 7, 2014

Diana and Terry Steskal, Cheryl and Terry Frisch were at our farm. They walked the TransCanada Keystone pipeline easement area and took photos of our land. Mike and I were asked many reclamation questions.

DATED this the 19th day Feb 20 15

Signature of Affiant

SWORN to subscribed before me, this

164

day FERREGEL 20

**NOTARY PUBLIC** 

My Commission Expires:

Exhibit E

Terry & Cheri Frisch 47591 9875<sup>th</sup> Road Atkinson, NE 68713

To whom to may concern,

This is our affidavit that on November 7, 2014, we along with Byron and Diana Steskal, 707 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Stuart NE 68780 met with Mike and Sue Sibson, 23782 426<sup>th</sup> Ave, Howard SD 57349. We took pictures of their ROW property and visited about the reclamation of their ROW property from the construction of the Keystone I pipeline.

DATED this the	e 28 <sup>th</sup> 20/5	_ day	
Jefrais	C		Cheryl Fruit
V			Signature of Affiants
SWORN to subscribed before me, this			
18th	day		
Feb.	20/5		•
	1	11	

My Commission Expires: 4 - 14 - 18



Reclamation Temetine by Yes support Exhibit F.1

2009:

Grassland team determined native grass varieties

TC pipeline construction

9-30-09 Reclamation and seeding of native grass

2010: Easement area full of weeds not much grass growing. TC sprayed the easement area.

August 2011:

TC was back to do total reclamation on the mile and a quarter easement area.

The crew was here for about two weeks.

Native grass was once again reseeded (wrong seed mixture was planted in 2009)

ROW ridges were leveled off, the ground cracks –areas were deep ripped to fill voids and leveled.

The 2009 signed TC construction agreement —all rock was to be hauled away.

Michels Construction pushed and buried the rocks into the easement area during construction.

August 2011-75 ton of rock was hauled off easement area.

## **September 25, 2012**

TC is back again to do some more reclamation. The easement area by the county road is now dry enough to work on the land. Mowing, dirt work and native grass reseeding is in the plan. The 80 acres will be reseeded over top of the grass seed planted in 2011. There is little native grass growing in the easement area. The crop ground showed loss of crop again.

Reclamation Temeline Ly Sue seeson Exhibit F-2

August 28, 2013

Frank Maddox and Eric Munz looked at easement area. The thickspike wheat grass is becoming more of a problem. Very little if any other native grass growing.

May 21 2014

Easement area sprayed with roundup and area mowed. Frank has had trouble trying to get rid of the thickspike wheat grass using spray. Area had to be sprayed twice.

August 19, 2014

Winds were 10-20 from the south. Sunny

Easement area replanted with native grass mixture-have a tag.



 $\#1 \sim 0074 \sim Easement area$ 



 $\#2 \sim 0075 \sim \text{Weeds}$ , tumbleweeds, and twisted clumps of thickspiked wheat grass



 $#3 \sim 0077 \sim easement area$ 





 $\#5 \sim 0082$  and  $\#6 \sim 0080 \sim$  Twisted Clumps of thickspiked wheat grass  $\sim$  Livestock will not eat.





#7 ~ 0086



 $\#8 \sim 0087 \sim \text{Native grasses}$  on the right side of the easement area



 $\#9 \sim 0093 \sim \text{Native grasses}$  on the left side and easement area of the right side of picture



#10 ~ 0090



 $#11 \sim 0095 \sim$  Native grasses on the left side of picture



#12 ~ 0098



 $\#13 \sim 0107 \sim Varmint\ holes \sim The\ ground/soil\ is\ at\ a\ higher/warmer\ temperature\ over/above\ the$ 

pipeline.



 $\#14 \sim 0104 \sim \text{Varmint holes over the pipeline} \sim \text{they like the warmer soil.}$ 



#15 ~ 0102



#16 ~ 0110



#17 ~ 0113



 $\#18 \sim 0113 \sim$  Easement area in the middle of the picture, where sky and land meet.



#19 ~ 0126



#21 ~ 0129



#22 ~ 0131 ~ Twisted Clumps of thickspiked wheat grass ~ Livestock will not eat.



#23 ~ 0134



 $\#24 \sim 0140 \sim$  Easement area on the right and native grasses on the left



 $\#25 \sim 0144 \sim \text{Wetlands} \sim \text{Standing on } 238^{\text{th}} \text{ Street} \sim \text{looking north towards easement area}$ 



#26 & #28  $\sim 0150 \sim Culvert \sim Wetlands on the south side of 238 th Street$ 



 $\#29 \sim 0159 \sim \text{Easement}$  area south side of  $238^{\text{th}}$  St.  $\sim$  Looking south



 $#30 \sim 0165 \sim Pump Station north of the Sibson property$ 



 $#31 \sim 0172 \sim$  Easement area on the north side of Pump Station



 $\#27 \sim 0149 \sim \text{Culvert} \sim \text{Wetlands north of } 238^{\text{th}} \text{ Street} \sim \text{looking north toward easement area}$ 

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

HP14-001

I certify that correct copies of my testimony, witness list and exhibit list were served electronically to the parties listed below:

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Matt.rappold01@gmail.com paul@paulblackburn.net

Ms. April McCart <a href="martinezlaw.net">april.mccart@martinezlaw.net</a>

Also I sent correct copies of my testimony, my witness list and exhibit list to the following parties by U.S. mail:

 Mr. Cody James
 Mr. Jerry Jones

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 22584 US Hwy 14

 Midland SD 57552
 Midland SD 57552

Mr. Ronald Fees Ms. Elizabeth Lone Eagle

17401 Fox Ridge Rd. PO Box 160

Opal, SD 57758 Howes, SD 57748

Everything completed and sent on April 21, 2015

Diana L. Steskal ~ Individual Intervenor 707 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Stuart NE 68780 402-924-3186