

**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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July 1, 2015

The Honorable Chris Nelson  
Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket HP14-001 - In the Matter of the Petition of TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP for Order Accepting Certification of Permit Issued in Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline

Dear Chairman Nelson:

On behalf of Basin Electric Power Cooperative I am writing in support of the above docket regarding certification of TransCanada's permit to construct the Keystone XL pipeline in South Dakota. Basin Electric is a regional, consumer-owned, power supplier formed in 1961 to provide supplemental power to a consortium of electric distribution cooperatives. As one of the largest power providers in South Dakota, we are especially interested in the Keystone XL pipeline and its role as a part of our nation's all of the above energy strategy.

Our cooperative members across the region are seeing increased growth in residential, consumer, and industrial electric loads, and the Keystone XL pipeline is an important part of planning for the future of electricity supply. The pipeline will travel through several of our member's service territories in South Dakota, and the compressor stations will be among the largest electrical loads for our members. Ancillary development of generation and transmission in the region to serve those loads will further support our nation's electrical infrastructure, making the Keystone XL pipeline a win-win for energy development.

Again, Basin Electric supports TransCanada's application for certification and urge the applications approval. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Paul Sukut  
CEO & General Manager

pms/clv

cc: The Honorable Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairman, South Dakota PUC  
The Honorable Gary Hanson, Commissioner, South Dakota PUC

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**From:** Christopher Vandeventer[[SMTP:CVANDEVENTER@BEPc.COM](mailto:SMTP:CVANDEVENTER@BEPc.COM)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2015 10:50:16 AM

**To:** PUC

**Cc:** Hanson, Gary (PUC); Fiegen, Kristie; Nelson, Chris

**Subject:** Basin Electric letter of support in Docket HP14-001

**Auto forwarded by a Rule**

Attached please find a letter from Basin Electric CEO Paul Sukut in support of TransCanda's certification of their permit to construct in the above mentioned docket.

## Chris Vandeventer

Legislative Representative

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

1717 E Interstate Ave

Bismarck, ND 58503

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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2015 11:42 AM  
**To:** 'CVANDEVENTER@BEPC.COM'; 'PSUKUT@BEPC.COM'  
**Subject:** HP14-001

CEO and General Manager Sukut:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Keystone XL pipeline certification docket. It will be posted in the electronic public record so my fellow commissioners and other parties in this docket can read it. Here is a link to the docket, HP14-001: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/HydrocarbonPipeline/2014/hp14-001.aspx>

Here are links to two documents found on the PUC's home page online. The first is titled Pipeline Siting Info Guide and the second is Keystone XL Pipeline Updates. These documents explain the processing of a pipeline siting case according to the South Dakota laws governing this commission. The latter links to some of the most-often-heard questions about the project and process and the answers.

<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/pipelinesiting.pdf> and  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/HydrocarbonPipeline/keystoneupdate.aspx>

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

July 1, 2015

Chris Nelson, Chairperson  
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson  
Gary Hanson, Commissioner  
Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: North Dakota Petroleum Council support for Keystone XL Pipeline**

The North Dakota Petroleum Council supports the Keystone XL pipeline and urges you to you to accept the certification of the permit Issued in 2010 to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline. After seven years and numerous environmental reviews, we have confidence that the pipeline is absolutely in our nation's best interest. The review of this project by both state and federal regulators has been thorough, public and encompassing, and has yielded extraordinarily positive results. It is time to move the project forward!

North America is in the midst of an energy renaissance. Yet, the United States lacks sufficient energy infrastructure to fully realize the benefits of this remarkable surge in oil production. Nowhere are the effects of this lack of infrastructure more apparent than here in North Dakota. As you know, Keystone XL is slated to move oil from Bakken producers as well as oil from Canada. By supporting domestic production and imports from our Canadian ally instead of politically unstable countries, we will continue to make great strides towards energy security.

Time and time again, pipelines have proved to be the safest and most efficient method to transport crude, and are greatly preferred over by truck or railway. The federal government has consistently found that the project will be safe and that groundwater is protected, even in the event of a release from the pipeline. The studies have found that a release has been made less likely by additional safety requirements and regulation to which this project has voluntarily submitted. We have confidence that TransCanada will be a good steward of the land and the Keystone XL will be constructed using industry best practices to meet or exceed all existing pipeline regulatory standards.

The Keystone XL pipeline will be a valuable tool in strengthening our economy, national security, and energy security. We respectfully request you accept the certification of the permit issued in 2010 to construct the Keystone XL Pipeline. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Ron Ness, President  
North Dakota Petroleum Council

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**From:** PUC  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 02, 2015 8:15 AM  
**To:** 'ABRINKMAN@NDOIL.ORG'; 'rness@ndoil.org'  
**Subject:** HP14-001

President Ness:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Keystone XL pipeline certification docket. It will be posted in the electronic public record so my fellow commissioners and other parties in this docket can read it. Here is a link to the docket, HP14-001: <http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/HydrocarbonPipeline/2014/hp14-001.aspx>

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<http://www.puc.sd.gov/commission/Publication/pipelinesiting.pdf> and  
<http://www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/HydrocarbonPipeline/keystoneupdate.aspx>

Chris Nelson, Chairman  
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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July 6, 2015

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
CAPITOL BUILDING, 1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR  
500 E. CAPITOL AVE  
PIERRE SD 57501-5070

Re: SUPPORT OF THE TRANS CANADA XL PIPELINE

West Central Electric Cooperative supports the approval of and the construction of the Trans Canada Keystone XL pipeline. We have a great working relationship with Trans Canada and have a signed contract for the construction and maintenance of two substations and 46 miles of 115 KV transmission line.

This pipeline, once constructed, will bring local benefits to our members. Rate stabilization is one such benefit. Our membership is burdened with a declining population and aging plant leaving fewer members to pay for the replacement of 60 year old plant. This pipeline will also help our members from a transmission capacity standpoint. Having a 115 KV transmission line in the center of our system brings some security with it. Another key benefit would be the tax revenue the Keystone XL pipeline will generate for our local counties and school districts. The additional tax dollars will lessen the financial strain on our members as well.

There are also the National level benefits our members will enjoy. Canada is a trusted ally with a long standing history of supporting the United States. So why not buy our oil from Canada and keep our money in trusted hands? Oil pipelines also have a proven track record of transporting oil safely and this new pipeline with the latest in technology will be no different.

The membership of West Central Electric looks forward to doing business with Trans Canada and providing them with safe, reliable electric energy.

The West Central Electric board has previously adopted a resolution supporting Trans Canada which is attached.

Sincerely,

WEST CENTRAL ELECTRIC CO-OP., INC.



Steven J. Reed  
CEO

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MANAGEMENT STAFF

Scott Kittelson – Operations Manager

Steve Reed – CEO/Manager  
Joe Connot – Member Services Director

Jeff Birkeland – Finance Manager

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**BOARD RESOLUTION**  
**TRANSCANADA PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Department of State has completed its Environmental Impact Statement and has made a determination of a non significant environmental impact, and

WHEREAS, the Department of State is determining if the project is in the national interest, and

WHEREAS, the project will bring long term benefits to the members of West Central Electric, and

WHEREAS, the board believes that oil from our good neighbor Canada is preferred over other unstable or dictatorial governments

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of West Central Electric encourages the Department of State to find that the project is in the national interest.