

From: Sandy Frazier [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2015 4:08:13 PM
To: PUC
Subject: Docket HP 14-001
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Attached please find my letter regarding Docket HP 14-001.

thank you.

April 26, 2015

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capital Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

puc@state.sd.us

Reference Docket HP 14-001

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Members:

The Keystone XL Pipeline is NOT in Our State Interest.

I was born and raised in Western South Dakota. I come from a ranch family. My mother had cattle since she was 18 years old. I grew up taking care of cattle most of my life. I still have cattle that I inherited from my mother. In this context, I have watched our family struggle from year to year hoping and praying that “this year” we will have adequate rain to care for our cattle – in terms of river water, dam water, and now water from rural water systems.

We are all South Dakotans, and know that drought and dry years can raise havoc on family ranchers. The water we do have is precious. Why in Gods Name would we risk the types of oil spills that would result from a dirty oil pipeline? We are talking not only about humans, but

also cattle, horses, sheep, grasslands, wildlife, fishing, all the things that are good about our rural way of life.

So many communities depend on the Cheyenne River and the Missouri River for their drinking water. Just because we are rural doesn't mean that we don't need the best drinking water possible. Other states and communities have experienced oil spills that compromised their drinking water supply. Is the State of South Dakota ready for the expense of cleaning up such spills? Is it ever really clean after such a spill? Would you drink oily water? And Federal dollars aren't all that available in this rural state!

In the future the water in the Missouri dam systems may be needed not only here but also in other states. How are we going to help if this water is dirty? Look at the example of California right now – that could be us with no potable water, and NOTHING will be produced!

Commissioners, I know that:

- Twenty-two plus fresh water rivers, including the Ogallala Aquifers and many underground springs would be in imminent danger of a catastrophic water contamination when a KXL pipe breaks.
- The Keystone XL tar sands are the dirtiest oil on the planet and will be going directly over major arteries of Mother Earth. WATER IS LIFE and WATER feeds America's BREAD BASKET, which America, as well as our exports depends on for food. We are in the direct path of destruction, and our clean drinking water will be polluted and human beings and all living things will suffer.
- The Keystone XL tar sands pipeline will not create tens of thousands of jobs as they report. According to Cornell University's report only 10-15% of the total KXL workforce is expected to be hired locally and these jobs will disappear after the completion of the project. And, "Man Camps" along the KXL route will put people in imminent danger. Statistics have proven that in oil boomtowns these makeshift camps are notorious for sex trafficking and rape increases, drugs and alcohol abuse, as well as other crimes have skyrocketed.

* I understand that should the pipeline be built and at some point closed this dirty pipe removal will be the responsibility of the landowners. Do you want this on your ranch land?

Commissioners, I am a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. I have the responsibility to make choices for my family that will affect us for the next seven generations. I generally stay out of politics; however, this is not a political concern – it is one of our water – our first medicine – our life. Without clean water we cannot live, and our relatives, the animals and birds, cannot either. I am taking care of my granddaughter and her three children in my house – we depend on the Cheyenne River for our drinking water – and not IF BUT WHEN such a pipeline would leak, we would not have safe drinking water. This would leak into the Missouri River where even more people depend on the water and it will be a total waste.

Our underground water has supported not only us but the millions of farmers and ranchers in many states – an oil spill in the middle states has the potential to turn the whole area into a “dead” zone. The Ogallala Aquifer may already be in danger with the dirty fracking chemicals scheduled to be pumped into the ground in Nebraska.

I pray that you put our beautiful rural way of life, our families, our ranches, our cattle and other livestock dependent on clean water, before this dirty oil line – for all of us in South Dakota.

Thank you.

Sandra Kay Frazier

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