
From: Sierra Club on behalf of Don Kelley[SMTP:SIERRA@SIERRACLUB.ORG]

Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2015 11:33:33 AM

To: PUC

Subject: Please reject the recertification of Keystone XL (Docket HP14-001) Auto forwarded by a Rule

Jun 27, 2015

South Dakota PUC

Dear PUC,

Although I understand the SD PUC's need to dismiss what may seem like emotional or non-pragmatic objections to the Keystone XL pipeline project, I believe that the PUC has excessively narrowed the discussion by excluding some very practical and germane considerations. I

The Keystone XL pipeline, which would pump toxic tar sands from Canada through our state to the Gulf of Mexico, is all risk and no reward for South Dakota.

TransCanada has yet to reveal an emergency response plan showing that they can even respond to a major oil spill. Increasing these risks is the fact that the proposed pipeline route places it through 200 miles of high-risk landslide areas in South Dakota and crosses significant waterways, including the Missouri River, a major source of drinking water.

The impacts of so-called "man-camps" and the increased risks of crime, sex trafficking, and sexual violence on vulnerable South Dakota and Native communities, have not been taken into account either.

I am also troubled by the decision to exclude aboriginal rights and off-reservation rights from the discussion on the whether the KXL pipeline permit should be granted recertification. Construction of this pipeline would put indigenous sacred sites and significant cultural areas at risk.

Finally, I profoundly disagree with the PUC's decision to preclude testimony on climate change from the recertification process. The carbon-intensive tar sands that Keystone XL would unlock will significantly exacerbate climate change, which puts South Dakota's agriculture, water resources, and tourism at risk. Some will say that tar sands bitumen will find alternate routes to market, making objections to this pipeline irrelevant to climate disruption, but such alternatives are sufficiently less attractive so as to make broader development of the tar sands less likely.

I urge the PUC to think about what's truly in the best long-term interest of South Dakota and reject the recertification of the Keystone XL pipeline.

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Kelley

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Deadwood, SD 57732-7407

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