
From: Sierra Club on behalf of Rebecca Leas[SMTP:SIERRA@SIERRACLUB.ORG]

Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 11:45:58 AM

To: PUC

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

Jul 2, 2015

South Dakota PUC

Dear PUC,

I have fought this project for 4 years, testified at the State Dept hearings in 2011 and as a career health professional object to the untethered destruction of our prairie and threat to our aquifers and public health. I have studied this project diligently and it is NOT something that is in the best interest of our country nor South Dakota.

This, I am writing to urge the South Dakota PUC to reject TransCanada's application for recertification of the Keystone XL pipeline construction permit in South Dakota.

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.

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. Rebecca Leas

[REDACTED]

Rapid City, SD 57702-7088

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