



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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July 6, 2015

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
CAPITOL BUILDING, 1ST 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

MANAGEMENT STAFF

Steve Reed – CEO/Manager

Scott Kittelson – Operations Manager

Joe Connot – Member Services Director

Jeff Birkeland – Finance Manager