
From: Anne Dilenschneider [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 22, 2015 2:29 AM
To: Nelson, Chris; Fiegen, Kristie; Hanson, Gary (PUC)
Subject: RE: Public input hearing for Docket HP14-002

Dear PUC Commissioners:

Pipelines are not a safe way to transport crude oil. They explode, rupture, and leak. Even with automatic shut off valves.

TransCanada — the Keystone XL company — had 3 pipeline explosions in a 9-month period last year. Two were in Canada. The third, on September 16, 2014 caused the evacuation of Lake Benton, MI and contaminated farmland. The damage occurred even though the automatic valves in the pipeline started to shut off the flow of oil as soon as the drop in pressure was detected.

Tesoro, has been working 24/7 every day since September 29, 2013 to clean up 20,600 barrels (865,200 gallons) of crude oil from a pipeline rupture near Bismarck, ND. It is the biggest onshore oil spill to date. 6,000 barrels of oil have been recovered; 14,600 barrels have saturated the farmland and are considered “lost.” So is the land. What “clean up” can be done is expected to last well into

2016: http://bismarcktribune.com/bakken/north-dakota-oil-spill-cleanup-to-last-at-least-two/article_c3af1d8c-9365-11e3-bc88-0019bb2963f4.html

In 2010, the pipeline accident at Enbridge accident affected 35 miles of waterways. That clean-up effort still continues. According to the EPA, the 2010 Enbridge accident spilled 843,000 gallons of oil: <http://www.epa.gov/enbridgespill/>

There were over 60 pipeline accidents in the last 2 years. Already this year there have been 2 pipeline accidents on January 14th — one in Louisiana and one in Mississippi. This week there was a third pipeline accident on the Yellowstone

River: <https://www.facebook.com/YellowstoneNPS/posts/1003587559656598> and <http://www.wsj.com/articles/oil-spills-into-yellowstone-river-after-pipeline-leak-1421688172>

For a more detailed list of pipeline accidents in the 21st century, go to:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_pipeline_accidents_in_the_United_States_in_the_21st_century)

In addition, the oil companies — particularly TransCanada — are notorious for strong-arming senior citizens into selling their land or seizing it by "eminent domain." (I have yet to figure out how a foreign company like TransCanada has the right to take American farm and ranch land by “eminent domain.” If it was the TransIranian Oil Company we’d have Congress and US citizens everywhere up in arms.)

At international town hall meeting was broadcast live on October 7, 2014 in both Calgary, Alberta and Lincoln, Nebraska, Corey Goulet, the TransCanada president of Keystone Projects, refused to address the land theft issues brought up by the ranchers and farmers. These Americans reported that their 80- and 90-year old widowed mothers had been repeatedly threatened by TransCanada land agents. Their mothers were told that, if they did not sell their family land to TransCanada, it would be taken from them under "eminent domain.” <http://www.pri.org/programs/america-abroad/keystone-xl-pipeline-international-town-hall>
“Eminent domain” is also being used to dispossess South Dakota farmers and ranchers for the Dakota Access Pipeline.

In addition, pipelines are dangerous, even in 2015.

There are plenty of clean, permanent, 21st century jobs we could bring to South Dakota. We do not need to sell our state — or any state -- to the oil companies for a few temporary jobs and the lure of quick tax monies. Please take a stand and stop allowing oil companies to determine the future of our state.

Regards,
Anne

Anne Dilenschneider, PhD



P.S. You will also note that during the international town hall meeting broadcast live on October 7, 2014 (see link above), Goulet claimed TransCanada has "all the land needed" for the KXL pipeline in Montana and South Dakota. That is simply not true. All of the South Dakota leases expired on June 29, 2014. As you know, the re-approval process has not begun. The oil companies are less than honest about the damage caused by continual leakage (Keystone #1) and the on-going "accidents" (explosions, spills, and leaks). They are also less than honest about the ways they are acquiring land in our state.