
From: Ronnie Fish [<mailto:rfish@siouxfalls.com>] **On Behalf Of** Jim Schmidt
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 11:09 AM
To: Nelson, Chris
Subject: Dakota Access

Commissioner Nelson. I can partly understand your reluctance to discuss the Dakota Access Pipeline. However, it is very disappointing to learn that you have closed the door on any discussion concerning this pipeline. I wish you could take the phone calls that I have received, and continue to receive on a daily basis, concerning this issue. Perhaps the most alarming thing, Chris, that you should know is that the overwhelming majority of individuals feel that a deal has been cut as they witness the amount of pipe that is being stockpiled, the amount of crushed rock that is accumulating, and by the stakes that are being placed on private property. The question is asked - I didn't think that it is approved yet? Is this a done deal?

How would you feel if you were a land owner and you had severe questions about where this was going to go? I've had reports that it is now moving to the south. People call and ask is this true? Again, we have no information coming from Dakota Access, only the well-polished lines that they present to the public. Issues that come about from township supervisors - are they really going to cut through township roads? If they bury their line five feet under county roads, how will that work? From my point of view the most frustrating part is that Lincoln County is a county that has and will continue to have tremendous economic growth. If I may compare that to a profitable business that had several divisions within it and the management decided to cut off one of the more profitable divisions for no good reason. Lincoln County's growth through economic development, commercial, light industrial, residential and the ag sector are all part of our future. In fact, one of the places that this pipeline is supposedly to go through has been looked at by a business that would employ up to 700 people with a potential to over 1,000.

This issue is not going to go away. I realize that you have a heavy burden of responsibility but please, the negative attitude is growing on a daily basis and somewhere we have to be able to inform the public that this is an orderly process, which I'm sure it is, but that no deals have been made and that your findings in October will be made. But for now the majority of those people that have a pipeline connected have quite the contrary opinion.

On another matter, I was hoping to discuss with you another issue that Lincoln County is facing which is a windfarm called Dakota Air. I'd like some clarity on where the PUC sits on this type of venture. Dakota Air is not sponsored by any utility but rather is a venture capital group which is trying to determine the amount of wind in the southeastern portion of the county. I wanted to determine the difference between a private group formulating a windfarm verses a utility such as Xcel Energy and determine if there are different criteria or standards that counties should be looking at, etc. I welcome your input.

Thank you for your service and look forward to the discussion on Dakota Air.

Sincerely,
Jim Schmidt, Lincoln County Commissioner