



Chris Nelson, Chairperson
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
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South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 30, 2015

Devona Smith
[REDACTED]

Centennial, CO 80121

Dear Ms. Smith:

This is in response to your letter regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline permit application request currently open before the commission.

The pipeline project's evidentiary hearing concluded Oct. 9 and no decision has been made yet on the pipeline permit application. Dakota Access filed their application on Dec. 15, 2014; therefore, the commission will issue a decision by Dec. 15, 2015 to stay within the one-year statutory limit.

The various parties are now drafting their post-hearing briefs per the schedule posted in the docket on Oct. 13:

- Nov. 6 – Briefs due from all parties
- Nov. 20 – Reply briefs due
- Nov. 30 – Oral decision
- Dec. 15 – Statutory deadline for final commission decision

A synopsis of the permit application review process is provided in the Pipeline Siting Guide linked to the commission's homepage online and enclosed. This is also addressed in the Dakota Access Pipeline Frequently-Asked-Questions document online and enclosed.

I encourage you to read through these as well as documents and testimony filed in the docket that address your questions. You can find the docket by going to www.puc.sd.gov and clicking on Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, 2014 Hydrocarbon Pipeline Dockets, and HP14-002.

Thank you for writing. I appreciate your concerns as well as those of your family members as landowners along the proposed project route. Your letter and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the formal docket so my fellow commissioners and all parties to the open, public docket have access to them.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson