

Peggy,

I agree that we need to dramatically change the way we look at energy use and creation in this country (and globally). I will also take into account much of what you wrote.

I do want to make it clear that many of the points you raise, however, should really be addressed at the state and federal legislative and policy level, rather than at an ad hoc quasi-judicial proceeding. To the extent that the rules need to be changed, they need to be changed for everyone in a fair and open process. I mention this fact, not to pass the buck (because I will certainly take your comments into account), but because I must act according to rules that I don't make (e.g., applicable statutes and case law).

At this time I do not know how I (or the Commission as a whole) will rule, because we haven't heard the evidence yet. It will be an interesting (and challenging) two weeks, no doubt.

I sincerely appreciate the fact that you took the time to email. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Dusty

PS. Anissa, please enter this correspondence into the record, as it is an ex parte communication.

Dustin "Dusty" Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
(605) 773-3201

----- Original Message -----

From: PEGGY COOPER <pegcooper55@hotmail.com>
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Sent: Thu Nov 29 22:28:00 2007
Subject: pipeline

Dear Commissioner Johnson:

For your consideration

Many of us who live in Clay and Union County, and who are opposed to the Hyperion project are also opposed to the pipeline construction under review. We are also opposed to any other pipeline that would supposedly follow to serve the Hyperion refinery.

As virtually everyone acknowledges, our whole energy mix needs to change, and as rapidly as technologically possible. Sending the foulest crude on the planet through several Midwestern states does not further this goal..

In the context of the Rocky Mountain West, mining, grazing and logging are referred to as the "lords of yesteryear". This is not to diminish their importance but only their excessive political clout. In the current energy context, we can hope that this label will soon refer to the polluting oil and coal lords of today.

According to Jeremy Leggett in "The Empty Tank" (pub. 2005), America's current consumption of oil is 20 million barrels a day. The American Petroleum Institute says they expect a million barrels a day to be added to that within 4-5 years. This is a significant amount. Given the fact also presented in Leggett's book that to increase the fuel efficiency of cars and light trucks by 2.7 miles per gallon would wipe out our need for 5 million barrels of foreign oil per day suggests this crude oil pipeline from Alberta is not necessary. Other avenues besides pipelines and refineries in our state are clearly available. Conservation is not just a personal virtue as Vice President Cheney has asserted, but better legislative and bureaucratic decision making can prove him wrong.

Just because sums of money will flow into many interested parties' pockets does not assure us that economic development by definition has happened. Properly placed concern for the larger context of alternative energy requirements and environment issues should be of paramount interest for your eventual decision.

In the energy field we cannot afford business, politics and bureaucracies as usual. Leadership in energy and environmental matters is increasingly being dominated by states and cities rather than Washington. We earnestly urge the PUC join this trend and deny all permits to this pipeline construction and use your influence in any way to stop this project.

Sincerely, Tom and Peggy Cooper, Vermillion