

Bob,

Thanks for taking the time to write. Yours is one of the most comprehensive and thoughtful emails I have read. I appreciate your concerns. Some of them I can take into consideration during my deliberations. Others I can't.

You have raised a number of issues, and I'd like to provide you my thoughts on all of them, but that would not be appropriate at this time. I hope you understand.

I think that many people (both pro and con) have rushed to judgment on this issue, but I want to assure you that I have not. I will review the evidence introduced carefully and will try my best to do what is right.

Again, Bob, thanks for your email. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Dusty

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

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

From: Bob Hastings <dualydriver03@hotmail.com>

To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)

Sent: Fri Nov 30 23:22:24 2007

Subject: Transcanada Pipeline

Dear Mr. Johnson,

My name is Bob Hastings from Britton, SD. I am a farmer and rancher here. As I understand it this and any testimony that I may give won't be considered in your ruling because I was supposed to submit it earlier. That is my fault and am not going to complain about it. I hope however that you take the time to read this e-mail.

In looking and reading the submitted letters to the PUC I see a trend. I see the proponents are people who have something to gain, short term, from this project. While I will not be so arrogant to tell you you shouldn't listen to them I believe their desire to see this pipeline be built should not carry as much weight as the people who have to live with it the rest of their lives and in some cases their children.

There are several reasons I think that the process needs to be slowed down and have a look at the issues that have not been addressed. There are many and from the letters I've read some have been stated and some have not. From my perspective as a renter I have not been informed as to how I will be reimbursed. I have an alfalfa field that will be affected. As most farmers know that once you destroy a stand of alfalfa you can't replant it. There is a toxin that is put into the ground and you have to wait a few years to replant. This will affect my herbicide program as well. Again I don't have any information, maybe you do, as to compensation for destroyed crops. Also of concern is compaction, especially as it has been so wet here. We donated some soil to the county to build up a low spot in the road back in the 90's. The soil was removed as Transcanada says they are going to do and we still do not have the production in that area. Also not addressed yet is who is responsible once the line is abandoned. I think that the easements should be for one pipeline and one only. I also believe that the easement should revert back to the landowner at no cost once the line has ended its use. I believe that a better formula for

figuring out value of the easement should be worked out. I know you can't do anything about how the current way Transcanada is handling easement payment- take it or see you in court- but it is my belief that you can influence legislation that could be proposed before you give your final decision on this project. What the specifics are that you can and can't use to determine the fate of this project are I am not up to speed but I believe you have the ability to use common sense and also the best interests of all the people involved to make your decision.

We have been asked to "trust" a company that hasn't built a line in a long time. We were also asked to "trust" Keystone that pipelines don't leak and they will do all they can to prevent it. All evidence to the contrary. This week a leak was being fixed when two men lost their lives on a crude oil line that I'm am sure wasn't going to leak. Trust is something that is earned over a period of time dealing fairly and openly with people. Again all evidence to the contrary with this company and project. If you didn't sign their easement your were sent papers to see you in court. Now they have asked that how they dealt with landowners not be allowed into testimony. WHY? Pipelines leak and had not the community that was affected this week in Minnesota taken it upon themselves to be ready to deal with this accident it would have been worse. I also believe that county commissions, ours included, have concerns that have not been addressed.

Who owns the buried line once it is done being used to transport crude oil? Landowner, townships, county, who? Can you imagine a person going down a gravel road at night and hitting the fallen in spot where the line had crossed? Who's responsible? A hunter is hunting my land and parks his pickup, unknowingly, over the line and it falls in, or he's walking for pheasants and falls into the hole left when the line rusts away and leaves a void. Who's responsible?

If I am right that if I come out to give testimony and it can't be used, on the record, I hope that in some way you can see fit to see that all questions have not been answered and that there are issues that do need to be addressed.

I have many other issues that I feel need to be attended to but you have been more than generous with your time if you read this. All I ask really I guess is that you take as much time as necessary to make this decision. Some things can't be changed once a decision has been made. I'm sure the two men who died last week would agree.

Thank you,

Bob Hastings