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PUC Commissioners:
Pierre, SD

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

July 13, 2007

Dear Commissioners: Dusty, Gary and Steve

Just a few thoughts about the TransCANADA-Keystone Project . One thing that really bothers me is when people state that there is not really much of anything out where the pipeline will go. Well in my case there has been ownership of that land by my Grandfather, father and myself since 1910 and I think part of your job is to watch social effects and let me tell you I have made a concerted effort over the years to save all the native grass on my place for as long as I can remember and I have a very special attachment to that land.

This pipeline crosses the SW Corner of the SE of 34-109-58 right through a native grass pasture. If they moved it less than a quarter of a mile to the west it would miss this and the owner of the SW ¼ of 34 has already received payment for an easement and I'm sure he would accept additional funds to have it continue on his property.

A gentleman who testified in Clark , was Jerry Rusher and Jerry worked for me a couple of years in the 60's and he now does cleanup work on oil spills in Alaska and I can't imagine the PUC approving a permit with as minimal wording about cleanup as they have in the application.

When it comes to bonding for the townships I would like to see wording that would allow the townships to receive the funds for damages to roads. I spoke with a township supervisor in ND where the heavy equipment and steel for the four legged power transmission towers was transported and he said in the spring of the year when they came around corners with those trucks they had to rebuild those intersections and he had pictures that I saw and it was a mess, so that part in addition to clean up must be included in any bonding. The same goes for the counties.

I contacted TransCANADA in November of '05 and guess what not one person has called to make an appointment to see me. I received a call from land agent in ND and he left a message and I returned the call a couple of times at my expense I also have made two trips to Alexandria, SD to listen to them at my expense one in 06 and one last month. They are the ones who will profit if this is approved not me. I have not been presented with an easement. Only hear say that says they want a perpetual easement for an oil supply that will last 18 years and a pipeline that will not last for ever and I hear it says they can put in more than one line. I thought this permit was for one line and that is what you should consider.

I can't imagine a foreign corporation telling our South Dakota elected officials to hurry up and approve this permit by Sept.07. My thought is it is your responsibility to investigate and be informed on all possible problems with this type of permit prior to making a decision. It would seem to me that this should not be done in a hurry, and if approval is given it needs to be after a lot of research on these types of pipelines.

Thank You for your consideration,



Ed and DeEtte Goss

Subject: native grass

Daily Plainsman

July 6) Farmers and landowners can be compensated for environmentally friendly management practices through a new program just in its second year in the state, two South Dakota Farmers Union officials said Thursday.

Acres certified with the Chicago Climate Exchange in the Carbon Credit Program are eligible if practices such as continuous no-till, seeded grass and forage stands and native rangeland are followed.

"This is a chance for farmers to make some dollars for doing good practices and taking care of their land," said Chuck Groth.

He and Jason Madsen gave a presentation at the Beadle County Democratic Forum.

The idea is to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide, one of six greenhouse gases, into the air. The agreement commonly known as the Kyoto protocol has a goal of reducing emissions by 5.2 percent below the 1990 level.

One of the ways is to capture and store carbon in the soil.

"If you want an example of what happens when you deplete soil organic matter — for those of you who lived through the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl years — that was a clear example of carbon that was eliminated from the soil," Groth said.

Certain conservation tillage and management practices can enhance the amount of carbon in the soil and reverse the trend that has been going on since the Great Plains was broken up for farming, he said.

The Chicago Climate Exchange is patterned after the New York Stock Exchange except that carbon credits are traded. The North Dakota Farmers Union is one of the so-called aggregators for the program that collects and markets credits. NDFU contracts for eligible acres and the South Dakota Farmers Union and other Farmers Union states are participants.

"They accumulate those credits in blocks and sell them on the climate exchange, the way that you sell anything on the commodity market, and then pay the producer for carbon stored in their acres," Groth said.

Producers and landowners who are already following the eligible conservation practices are the likeliest ones to enroll.

To sign up, they can go to the NDFU Web site. They must sign a contract and provide land maps from the Farm Service Agency. Those without Internet access can enroll with the help of a Farmers Union Insurance agent.

The deadline for this year's enrollment is Aug. 15.

The pilot program has been in place since about 2002 in other states, but only in South Dakota since last year in the 22 eastern counties.

North Dakota enrolled about 850,000 acres last year and farmers received about \$2 million, for an average individual payment

And I have an approved conservation plan for my place done by the soil conservation service in Kingsbury County. Ed Ross

7/15/2007

06/24/2007

Progress Of The Pipeline Project



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When you think of oil pipelines, places like Alaska and countries in the Middle East may come to mind. But in a few years, South Dakota could have a crude oil pipeline running through the state.

For decades, South Dakota has been known for the value found in the ground. Fields in the state produce thousands of bushels of crops every year; family run farms and ranches use the grass to feed cattle. But soon, more value could be found underground.

Public Utilities Commissioner Dusty Johnson says, "We don't have a pipeline like this going through South Dakota."

A Canadian based energy company, Transcanada, wants to start construction on its Keystone pipeline project in South Dakota next year. It would move more than \$30 million worth of crude a day from oil fields in Canada through the farm fields of South Dakota.

For their benefit, not mine
Ed

Keystone Pipeline Project Representative Jeff Rauh says, "It's a project that makes sense to look for a source of North American oil and Canada has a growing source of oil."

The project is moving closer to reality. Just last week, the Public Utilities Commission started considering Transcanada's application. The PUC hopes to have a decision on if the pipeline can be built in the state within the next year.

7/15/2007

Johnson says, "We need to make sure that this project is not going to harm the environment, that it's not going to harm the economic development of South Dakota, and that it's not going to have some adverse impact that we don't want to have happen in our state."

As the regulatory and permitting process gets going, opposition is starting to gather against the oil pipeline. A group has formed in northern South Dakota, where the pipeline would enter the state.

Farmers in that area don't want the 30 inch pipeline running under their land; they want the route moved over by Interstate 29. Transcanda says the route it has planned is the one it wants to use.

Rauh says, "It's a good route, makes sense, gets us where we want to go efficiently and with minimal impact on the environment and landowners."

The landowners opposed to the project, that would ship more than 400,000 barrels of oil from Canada to Illinois everyday, live near Britton, where the pipeline would enter the state; it would run through South Dakota, all the way to Yankton.

As they make their decision, Public Utilities Commissioners will have to weigh the impact to those landowners versus the value a pipeline could bring to the state.

Johnson says, "If it was built it would bring about \$6.5 million a year in property taxes every year to local residents in South Dakota."

Rauh says, "The pipe buried in the ground will have some significant value and as such will be taxed and generate some significant taxes."

In the next year, the PUC will decide if those taxes will come to the state as it looks at the permits, opposition and proposed route of a project that wants to put a valuable commodity into South Dakota's soil.

The Public Utilities Commission will hold four public input hearings this week in towns along the proposed route.

Those meetings will be held in Yankton, Alexandria, Clark, and Britton starting tomorrow.

Ben Dunsmoor

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*am I correct that this is the amount of
construction happened every year.*

ED Hors