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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

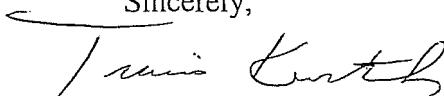
Dear PUC,

I am writing in regard to the proposed TransCanada oil pipeline. I am a teacher of Biology. I believe firmly that this is a good thing for this state and the economy. However, I also truly believe that if the right steps are taken this can be done with not only a huge benefit to this state economy but also protects the most important natural resource we have in water. I am extremely concerned about the proposed path of the pipeline. Its proposed path would cross some of the sandiest soil in Marshall county. The BDM rural water system pulls water directly from an aquifer that would be affected in the event of a leak. The BDM rural water system supplies my family and a number of families with drinking water and water for livestock. Agriculture is the backbone of this state. I can not in good conscience be okay, with the possible thought of a leak that no matter how small, may go undetected and eventually end up in that water supply.

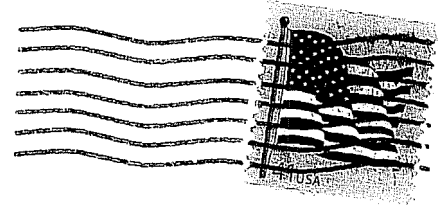
TransCanda can talk about all the pipe strength they want and how fast they can act in the event of a leak. What happens if it is undetected for a period of time. The proposed path if moved 8 miles to the east, which still travels through BDM territory, would be a much better area for the pipeline. I believe state geologists have discussed this and have stated that geology of clay would help prevent the leak from reaching the water supply. I am for this project if its done the right way. Surely moving this pipeline to where it does not sit upon an aquifer that directly supplies water to members of Brown, Day and Marshall counties has to be in the forefront of the minds of the leaders of this state. It is the people who elected those officials and their voices should be heard. I really think that this project is fine in this time and the event of a leak is slim in the early years of this project but what happens in the future 10 years 20 years down the road. Yes, TransCanada will tell you they have procedures in place but my question is how much time does it take for damage to be done that will affect people for even one short year. I know everyone prepares for the worst but we all know there are things that we can't predict. So in reality we really are not prepared for everything.

I believe it would be in the best interest of this state and its people to move it just a little ways and stay off that aquifer if we can. Surely, a giant like TransCanada, can make reasonable adjustments to their plan and make it work. But they will not, unless they have someone with the authority to say we would like you to tweak your plan. That is where I believe you have that power, whether our state governor disagrees with it or not. I urge you to do what the people of this state need and want, and that is to look out for everyone's best interests including the generations of children that could be born and raised in this wonderful area who will pay for the mistakes of just a few.

Sincerely,


Travis Kurth

RR1 Box C
Claremont, SD 57432



Commissioners G. Hanson,
S. Kolbeck, & D. Johnson
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Bldg., 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

57501+5070-50 C012

