

Sisseton - Wahpeton Oyate

LAKE TRAVERSE UTILITY COMMISSION

PO BOX 747 • AGENCY VILLAGE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57262-0747

PHONE: (605) 698-4211 • FAX: (605) 698-4211

RECEIVED

MAR 07 2008

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

March 4, 2008

Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Bldg., 1st. Floor
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Commissioners G. Hanson, S. Kolbeck, & D. Johnson:

I am writing with regard to concerns our office has with the Trans-Canada Keystone pipeline. Our office deals in domestic water needs for the Tribal members of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, the question has been raised not only by tribal members, but also from several farmers and ranchers in the Marshall County area, if there is a possibility of our water supply being contaminated if there is a leak in the proposed Trans-Canada crude oil pipeline that is scheduled to pass through Marshall and Day counties.


We have talked to members of the Tribes Historic Preservation Office (THPO) as we have heard that they had some involvement in this. Now from the indigenous people perspective of this, our concerns become twofold. (1) Because this entire area is the original homelands of the Sioux Nation, it is a concern that ancient campgrounds and possibly some burial mounds will be destroyed during construction if the pipeline. (2) We are also concerned about the possibility of our water source being contaminated. The water source for Tribe is the BDM Rural Water System. It is our understanding that the TransCanada Pipeline will be crossing not only some of the BDM truck lines, but also near the aquifer that they are currently getting water from. If the BDM Rural Water System is in danger of becoming contaminated, than that becomes a major Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate concern, and a concern that we intend to voice if the need arises.

We have received documentation from Dr.'s Arden Davis and Perry Rahn, senior geologists from SD School of Mines, have voiced their concerns also, and that "prevention of pollution before it occurs is better and more cost effective than trying to clean it up after it occurs." If in fact, the recharge area for the Middle James aquifer is in the immediate when a leak occurs. The Middle James aquifer is the water source for the BDM Rural Water System. An aquifer recharge area if like a conduit hooked directly to the aquifer, and if this particular aquifer becomes contaminated it will not only affect our


Tribal members, but the entire Northeast section of South Dakota, or the entire area that the BDM Rural Water System provides a service to.

This pipeline has been in the works for several years and it seems that everyone and every organization that was to be affected by this should have been notified and even invited to some planning stage meetings, rather than asking for an option only weeks before construction is proposed to begin, and then cramming everything down our throats and requiring an immediate answer. The Federal Government usually takes several years to plan a project, and suddenly provide you with documentation that is reams thick and say they need to response in three days. Thank You.


Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Tribal Chairman

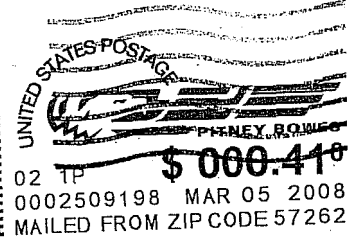
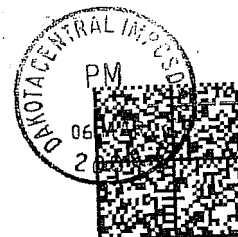

Michael Selvage

Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
Lake Traverse Utility Commission


John C. Cloud, III
LTUC Manager

CC: David Wade
BDM Rural Water System General Manager


Sisseton - Wahpeton Oyate
Lake Traverse Utility Commission
PO Box 747
Agency Village, South Dakota 57262-0747



Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Bldg., 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070