

February 17, 2010

Dear "Sender",

Thanks for taking the time to email me your personal thoughts on the Keystone XL project. State law (SDCL 49-41B-24) requires the Commission render a decision within one year of application filing, which for this docket would be March 12. We have spent more than eleven months studying this project and taking evidence. State law requires we make a decision shortly.

I can assure you we have conducted a fair and thorough examination of all areas under the Commission's jurisdiction. Since 2007 the Commission has reviewed thousands and thousands of pages of information and heard testimony from more than two dozen witnesses on the siting of interstate hydrocarbon pipelines. On the Keystone XL pipeline specifically, five Commission staffers, three Commissioners, and a number of outside expert consultants have spent months reviewing the project. Our environmental review has been conducted independently from any EIS and is not dependent upon the completion of an EIS. Our process reviewed hydrology, wildlife, plants and vegetation, erosion, soil types, noise, and many other areas of concern.

Have you taken an opportunity to review the Commission's order on the Keystone I pipeline (<http://puc.sd.gov/commission/orders/HydrocarbonPipeline/2008/hp07-001.pdf>)? I do not know if the Commission's decision on Keystone XL will be similar, but reading the Keystone I order will provide you some context for the due diligence that is conducted for projects of this type, and for the many conditions the Commission can place upon them. For those interested in hydrocarbon pipelines, I think reading the Keystone I order is well worth the time.

Many thanks,

Dusty

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

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

From: NRDC On Behalf Of "Sender"
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2010 12:20 PM
To: Johnson, Dustin (PUC)
Subject: Reject the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline

Feb 16, 2010

Chairman Dustin Johnson
500 E. Capitol Avenue, 1st floor
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Dear Chairman Johnson,

You are scheduled to make a very important decision on February 18th regarding the Keystone XL pipeline. I urge you to say No to a new tar sands oil pipeline in South Dakota. The Keystone XL pipeline would carry the dirtiest crude on the planet through a high pressure pipeline from Alberta, Canada, through the

heart of our region and to the Gulf states. It would double the flow of this crude into the United States at the very time that we are working to develop new cleaner and renewable fuels and to make our cars and

trucks more energy efficient. The pipeline would keep the United States addicted to oil and impede the transformation of our energy use from dirty fossil fuels to renewables such as wind, solar and sustainably harvested biofuels. The pipeline also threatens our beautiful region. No environmental impact statement or emergency plan has been issued for the pipeline, putting our communities and agricultural heartland at risk.

I urge you to consider the impact on our clean energy future as well as the impact of this pipeline on our region. We should not be part of a plan to lock the United States into a dirty source of oil at the very time that we need to move to cleaner alternatives. Please say No to the tar sands pipeline or at least delay your vote until the people of our region have the information we need to make a decision about whether this pipeline should be allowed to go forward.

Sincerely,

“Sender”