
From: Heather Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 01, 2014 10:09 AM
To: Hanson, Gary (PUC); Nelson, Chris; Fiegen, Kristie
Subject: Keystone XL Pipeline Opposition

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: Docket HP09-001 to Construct the Keystone XL Pipeline

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to inform you that I am in opposition to the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline project across South Dakota. My reasons are as follows:

Keystone XL Pipeline and its owners have continually lied and said it will not cross "Indian" land, it will. Almost all the land it wishes to cross in South Dakota is covered under the 1851 and 1868 Treaties. It would cross allotted land owned by tribal members and managed under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. To build the pipeline cargo will have to pass through reservation boundaries and several tribes have made it illegal for TransCanada to cross our boundaries in any manner. This is our right as guaranteed under the 1868 Treaty.

We know that it is not a matter of if the pipeline will break but when. South Dakota does not have the infrastructure for such an occurrence. We do not have the emergency personnel if such a spill, explosion or other disaster linked to the pipeline were to occur. We simply do not have the fire crews, hazardous waste clean up crews, hospital rooms and staff, nor ambulances.

TransCanada or its construction companies did not do a complete walk through of the proposed route to look for historical sites or sacred sites as Rosebud Sioux Tribe has discovered. The route plans to go through several hanbleceya sites and other ceremonial, sacred and historical sites along the path and this is unacceptable. The plan to contact State Historical Preservation Office is not enough. They must contact the tribes and our tribal historic preservation officers should have final say. This is our historic land and also treaty land. The United States of America has laws against disturbing and uprooting sacred or historical sites. Why do they not apply to these Tribal lands?

The set up of construction camps that will be located near reservations. There are numerous reports from news agencies and government agencies showing the increased crime rates, and human/sex trafficking that occurs when these camps are put up. It is well known that placing such camps near Native American communities increases the likelihood of sex trafficking and predator like behavior on a vulnerable population. This would have a detrimental effect on the social fabric of not only Native communities but also small towns near these "man camps".

Nothing in the plan outlines says anything about possible tribal lands that would be affected in the event of a spill or contamination. There is no remedial planned response for spills that travel to tribal lands.

The amount of jobs created is inflated and untrue. To work on the pipeline an employee will have to be contracted through

specific contractors hired by TransCanada and most of these will be union employees brought in from other states and are temporary at best.

The DSEIS does not take into consideration the impacts to agriculture, including appropriate compensation for lost land production and livestock. For example, the DSEIS estimates it will take 1-20 years for land destroyed by construction to regain productivity, yet only holds TransCanada liable for full payment for one year.

The pipeline in its own papers shows that it will cross water sources that are in danger of a spill here in South Dakota. It will go near wells for livestock and people and poses a significant danger to several rivers, streams and stock dams. Some rivers like the Cheyenne River, are used for sustainable fishing by tribal people. Yet there is nothing to protect these ancestral rights on the water. Water is sacred to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota and many other Indigenous people. There are many places in the United States right now that face severe water shortages and we cannot take the chance to pollute this natural resource.

Ecosystems have been minimized by TransCanada, ecosystems which are vital to the prairie and the cultures which live here; Native American, Farmers and Ranchers, but also to valuable to our state revenues in hunting, fishing and tourism. I at this point am under the impression that they mean to kill all Tribal Nations affected which is exactly what is going to happen by breaking down our ecosystems as well economic systems and you are consenting to those actions..

Sincerely,

~Heather M. Marshall-Sanchez~Lakota~
Rosebud Sioux Tribal Member