
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION BY SCS CARBON
TRANSPORT LLC FOR A PERMIT
TO CONSTRUCT A CARBON
DIOXIDE TRANSMISSION
PIPELINE**

HLP22-001

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF
DEEMERRIS "DEBRAE"
BURNS
IN SUPPORT OF LANDOWNER
INTERVENORS**

Q: Please state your name and purpose for providing testimony in these proceedings.

A: My name is DeEmerris "Debrae" Burns. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the PUC information about my personal experiences and observations of the negative impacts of CO2 pipelines, the importance not locating or siting such hazardous pipelines anywhere within a mile or less of people or livestock, and my overall frightening experience with the CO2 pipeline rupture and explosion in Satartia Mississippi that occurred on February 22, 2020.

Q: Describe to the PUC Commissioners your experience with the CO2 pipeline rupture and explosion in Satartia Mississippi and every detail of what you observed and experienced including where you were and how far away from the pipeline you were when you began to realize something was different that day.

A: My brother, cousin and I were coming home from fishing that day. We were on our way home around about 7 o'clock when the pipeline exploded. I saw it explode. It smelled like rotten eggs out there. We heard the boom, and suddenly, we saw, we saw the cloud just push up out of the ground. It came up like a mushroom. We were about anywhere from 500 to 1,000 yards away. I will say that because I did not, I could not, measure anything, but it was right there. Within a minute, we had passed

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out. At that time, I had called my mother, and told my mom that we were coming to pick my mother and her grandchildren up. But we never showed up because the car shut down. The last thing I remember was my cousin told me, he said, “the car shut off.” That is it. After that, we just passed out and we woke up at the emergency room in Vicksburg three and a half, four, hours later. My health still has not regained. I still have trouble breathing and chronic headaches. I have trouble focusing and short-term memory loss. I forget what I am doing at any given minute. It has been treacherous for me but not only me. My family has to put up with me. The pipeline rupture is why I moved out of Satartia. Other people have moved out after. They are slowly rebuilding Satartia, they are slowly coming back.

Q: Describe to the PUC Commissioners what you believe should have been done differently and what could have prevented your exposure to the Satartia CO2 pipeline rupture incident.

A: There should have been more communication from the company. It should have been communicated from the company to the surrounding neighborhood, surrounding area. What could have been done to avoid it? I do not know. I do not know what type of safety precautions to put in, because I am not a pipeline safety person. I know enough to know that I do not think there is a precaution they could put in for a pipeline rupture, except for putting better checkpoints on the pipeline. That is about all I can say about that. Well, they could have some warning. I do not know, I don't think it should have been built in the first place. I would not recommend that a pipeline be put up nowhere because even if it has put out in in an area that's rural area, which is miles and miles of it [pipeline] they are laying. Who will be there to observe the pipeline? Will it explode anywhere else? What about the environment? There is a lot of stuff that a lot of people do not trust. I do not trust or endorse the pipeline.

Q: If there is anything else you believe the South Dakota Public Utility Commission should know based upon your experiences and observations that we have not already covered please add that here.

A: Everybody keeps on talking about how these pipelines are safe. Terry Gann, Sartaria first responder, said it feels like putting a paper bag on your head and sitting with it for ten minutes. Tell me how you feel when they take it off. It is the same. Nobody tells you, but these pipelines will do a lot to you. It is not always harmless. People do not know that. People need to know the harmfulness and the dangers of the pipeline.

I urge the PUC to carefully consider this testimony during the Hearing in this matter and in your deliberations. Based on my experiences I do not believe there are conditions that can be placed upon these proposed hazardous CO2 pipelines unless they are at a minimum one mile away from any residence or place where people regularly gather. I further reserve the right to amend or modify these opinions upon presentation of any additional information that may justify such a change.

Dated June 16, 2023

/s/ DeEmerris Burns

DeEmerris Burns