

From: McPherson Co. Herald <herald@valleytel.net>
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 2:44 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Comments Regarding PUC Docket #HP22-001

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please find attached my comments regarding PUC Docket #HP22-001.

Thank you,

Jeremy Cox
Publisher/Editor
McPherson Co. Herald
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March 11, 2022

SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

PUC Docket #HP22-001 – In the Matter of the Application by SCS Carbon Transport LLC for a Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of McPherson County, and a publisher of a weekly newspaper located in this area, I have heard extensive testimony from my fellow community members, landowners, and farmers regarding their profound concerns about Summit Carbon Solution's proposed CO2 pipeline that is intended to be routed through this area, for which an application has been submitted to the PUC for consideration. It is clear to me that the overwhelming majority of our local and area residents firmly question the validity and safety of this proposed project and wholeheartedly disapprove of its progression.

I have conducted my own thorough research of this project and I 100% agree that it is vehemently against the best interests of all local, area, and state residents. I believe this project may even result in nationwide repercussions if approved by the PUC and allowed to move forward.

Not even with the world's best engineers and best utility oversight can anyone guarantee that a pipeline transporting a liquefied asphyxiant at more than 2,000 PSI will not leak and pose a danger to nearby homes and communities – public areas that will not likely be prepared to respond to such a catastrophe. The elderly residents of Sartoria, Mississippi, who survived such a horrendous ordeal in February of 2020, can attest to this fact. Furthermore, even with optimal construction and safety measures in place, an important consideration that should not be overlooked is how severely this underground pipeline may be affected by a seismic event.

Seismic activity, though rare in South Dakota, does occur on occasion. According to the South Dakota Geological Survey, approximately 100 earthquakes have been documented in South Dakota since 1872. The largest was a 4.5-magnitude event that occurred near Alpena in 1911. A 4.1-level earthquake also struck in neighboring Wessington Springs in 1946. According to the US Geological Survey, numerous other seismic events, ranging from 3.0 to 3.6, have occurred in this region of the state between Pierre and Sioux Falls within the last 40 years, between 1986 and 2003. Summit's pipeline will be routed directly through this area in Beadle County, lending itself to remote, but very real, possibilities.

Additionally, geophysicists of Stanford University have claimed that the injection of massive quantities of carbon dioxide into underground reservoirs is likely to trigger seismic activity as well as create pressure that can break reservoir seals to release stored CO₂. (Stanford Report, June 19, 2012 – Max McClure)

Overall, I see a project that boasts misleading claims, threatens the safety of all South Dakotans with the unnecessary transport of hazardous material for personal financial gain at the taxpayer's expense, and one that has even resulted in the personal harassment of local residents who refuse to jeopardize their safety, homes, and livelihoods by agreeing to sign easements that would allow this dangerous pipeline onto their land.

In the state of Iowa, where Summit Carbon Solutions also intends to construct its proposed CO₂ pipeline, the Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club is just one group that has voiced its profound opposition to this project. Additionally, this group has made factsheets and webinars regarding the dangers of CO₂ pipelines available on its website, which I invite you to review as you consider the pipeline application for South Dakota (<https://www.sierraclub.org/iowa/carbon-dioxide-pipelines>).

The McPherson County Board of Commissioners have heard the outcries of our community and have supported our County Planning & Zoning Board to pass a moratorium on new pipelines carrying hazardous materials being built in the area. Our residents are also organizing a petition that opposes Summit's project that will be forwarded to you for your consideration. I implore you to listen to these voices, to discern the many risks and falsehoods of this pipeline project through your own independent analysis, and to deny Summit Carbon Solution's application for the welfare and protection of all South Dakota residents.

Sincerely yours,
Jeremy R. Cox
Publisher & Editor
McPherson Co. Herald
Leola, South Dakota