



Chris Nelson, Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Vice Chairperson
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South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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March 16, 2022

Mark Lapka
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Lapka and Concerned Citizens of McPherson County,

This is in response to your letter regarding the proposed SCS Carbon Transport LLC pipeline.

The Public Utilities Commission received a siting permit application for this pipeline project on Feb. 7, 2022, resulting in the opening of docket HP22-001. This docket will receive a detailed review of the proposed project by the commission, with a final decision required by state law by Feb. 6, 2023. This will begin with public input meetings hosted by the commission along the pipeline's route. You will find a list of these meetings, scheduled for March 22-25, in the online docket.

You may find information addressing some of your concerns during the explanation provided by the project's permit applicant during the public input meetings. I encourage you to attend one of these meetings. In addition, a large amount of further project information will be requested, filed in the online docket, and be publicly available during the year ahead.

The commission is not involved with easements and eminent domain. Here is an excerpt from the Public Utilities Commission's Information Guide to Siting Pipelines posted online and enclosed:

The PUC is not involved in the easement acquisition process that occurs between applicants and landowners. Likewise, the PUC does not have a role in the eminent domain process, which is handled in the circuit court system. Landowners with concerns about these issues should seek advice from their personal attorney.

My fellow commissioners and I cannot deny any applicant a siting permit without fully reviewing and processing the application. We are bound by law to follow the criteria on whether or not a project is eligible to receive a permit.

Thank you for sharing your concerns. Your letter and this response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson