

From: Nelson, Chris <Chris.Nelson@state.sd.us>

Sent: Sunday, February 27, 2022 5:36 AM

To: Lee Schoenbeck <lee@schoenbecklaw.com>

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Subject: RE: [EXT] Pipeline

Senator Schoenbeck,

As you know the commission is not involved with eminent domain. Here is an excerpt from the Public Utilities Commission's Information Guide to Siting Pipelines posted online:

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.

The Public Utilities Commission received a siting permit application for this pipeline project on Feb. 7, resulting in the opening of docket [HP22-001](#). This docket will receive a detailed review of the proposed project by the commission. 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 docket.

If you are unable to attend a public input meeting, you may submit written comments for commissioners and others to review and to be posted in the open docket. In addition to obtaining feedback at these meetings and via written comments, commission staff will review the project's application to ensure it meets the requirements of South Dakota laws and rules. The project applicant, individuals who were granted party status, and commission staff will present their cases with evidence to the commission. The commission will issue a decision on whether or not to issue a permit based on the record before it and following the criteria provided by state law. This discussion and decision will take place during a public meeting. The processing of a pipeline siting docket can take up to one year.

You will find information posted on the PUC's website to guide you in understanding the processing of siting dockets and communicating with the commission on dockets: [Information Guide to Siting Pipelines](#), [Informational Guide](#), and [Ex Parte Communications Guidelines](#).

Thank you for reaching out to the commission to share your concerns. Your message and my response will be posted under Comments and Responses in the docket.

Sincerely,

Chris Nelson, Commission Chairman