

Date: 3/3/2022

From: Landowner Lake County South Dakota Address:

Sioux Falls [REDACTED] el:

To: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Subject: SD - CO2 Pipeline PUC Docket #HP22-001

I am contacting you to oppose the permit for the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline (SCS). As a landowner on the proposed route, I am not happy about the pending PUC decision to do business with these non-transparent private companies that are seeking to gain approval to run a dangerous pipeline through privately owned farm property.

In my opinion, private companies like SCS should not be able to use Eminent Domain to use private property for no real purpose other than their financial gain. I know you don't control Eminent Domain, but if you deny the permit, we don't have to worry about having our land taken for this worthless, dangerous pipeline. Their environmental claim is weak, as the fossil fuel and water used to convert the CO2 to liquid has a greater impact on the environment than the CO2 produced. The real purpose for this project is SCS financial gain through tax credits.

First of all this is not a utility. Utilities are for public use. The public will not be using the contents of this pipeline. It is only for the financial benefit of these private owners. Land owners are expected to sign a one sided easement for a one time payment, while the SCS will continue to profit from Tax Credits with a pipeline that will be in the landowners property forever.

This pipeline is extremely dangerous. All pipelines leak. CO2 is a hazardous material. A leak from CO2 under pressure can form an extremely dangerous cloud that causes humans, livestock and other animals to become helpless and die. Vehicles will not start or run to allow escape from the CO2 cloud. Our areas have no trained CO2 response teams to adequately reach and assist victims should a leak happen. SCS should be required to provide finances for training CO2 hazmat response teams in every affected county to adequately reach and assist victims should a leak happen. There should be setback requirements for distance from farm places, pastures, and other areas. The proposed pipeline on my land is dangerously close to three occupied farm homes.

There is no concern for the safety of the owner or operator. This pipeline is buried, supposedly deep enough (3 feet), to continue usual farming practices. However, if due to erosion, weight of equipment or other possible scenarios the line is punctured, or caves in, the landowner, not SCS can be lawfully responsible. My farm or personal liability insurance will not cover any damages due to the CO2 pipeline.

Another major issue is the abandonment of pipelines. It's impossible to negotiate an easement with these private companies that requires them to remove or accept any responsibility for the abandoned pipeline, but at the same time they can keep the easement rights, transfer it or sell it to another entity under the same easement terms. However, the landowner still pays the property taxes on the easement area.

Federal and South Dakota Regulations for CO2 pipelines are extremely inadequate. I see no concerns about safety, protecting landowners from eminent domain, accidental breakage, the safety of neighbors, and removal of obsolete pipe. I experienced DAPL pipeline tearing through the entire length of my land. The land never recovers and has an extreme affect on the productivity of crops. It also destroys the value of my land. Who wants to buy land that has a dangerous pipeline running through it.

This is a boondoggle of huge proportions. Landowners are liable, but SCS makes huge profits from a pipeline that buries CO2. They cannot guarantee there will be no leaks from the pipeline or the storage facility. We should be using science to find more ways to utilize or breakdown CO2, instead of spending billions of dollars on a huge pipeline that only deals with a small percentage of CO2 that is produced.

Please oppose the permit for this dangerous pipeline that does so much damage for little or no public value, use or benefit.

Respectfully,  
Betty Strom Landowner Lake County South Dakota