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

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

HP22-001

**DAN ZEGART
INITIAL PRE-FILED TESTIMONY
IN SUPPORT OF
LANDOWNER INTERVENORS**

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

A: My name is Dan Zegart. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the PUC information helpful when considering Summit's claims related to safety and their intended operations and the overall dangers of high-pressure hazardous CO2 pipelines. I spent months as an investigative reporter reporting on the events of the Denbury CO2 pipeline explosion in Satartia Mississippi, the effects on the persons in that community, and empty promises of the CO2 pipeline company.

Q: What experience, education, training, or background qualify you to provide opinions and your concerns as you have hearing?

A: Please see a summary of my education and experience in **Attachment No. 1**.

Q: Give the PUC a sense of your background and prior research into carbon capture and storage and how you became involve with the Satartia Mississippi incident?

A: I've been deeply involved in researching CCS technology and CO2 pipelines since 2014. In particular, I delved into a group of new American and Canadian carbon capture projects. All were very expensive, all failed to capture a significant amount of CO2 and ran intermittently.

I discovered a major utility, Southern Company, that had chosen eastern Mississippi to build the first commercial-scale, coal-fired power plant with carbon capture. Southern and another company had developed a patented, heavily-promoted, but

almost entirely untested coal gasification system that was modified to capture CO₂. The US Department of Energy gave what was called the Kemper coal plant a \$407 million grant. Deadlines were pushed back years, while the cost of the CCS-equipped facility went from \$2.8 billion to \$7.5 billion - a substantial portion of which would be paid by 286,000 overwhelmingly poor Mississippi ratepayers. After more than a year of trying to get the technology to function, the Kemper coal plant was scrapped in 2017, and Southern destroyed the coal and CCS part of the plant two years later in a controlled implosion.

There were several other prominent failures during that period, such as Petra Nova in Texas, and the Boundary Dam in Canada.

I focused also on fossil fuel pipelines and the intense backlash against building them. I covered the siting and building of the Mariner East II, Bayou Bridge, Rover, Jordan Cove, Line 3 and Mountain Valley pipelines. I studied the health and safety and environmental justice aspects of these pipelines. These included the size of blast zones, use of eminent domain, building on extremely steep terrain, and the destruction of natural habitat and waterways.

In February 2020, I got a call from a Mississippi source I'd become close with while working on Kemper. He told me roughly what had happened in Satartia, and two days later I was there. Denbury, then called Denbury Onshore, ran a network of CO₂ pipelines in Mississippi that provided CO₂ to oil fields for enhanced oil recovery. Denbury's oil fields had already seen several explosive blow-outs (where a CO₂ mixture erupted from the ground) and other accidents in oil fields and remote locations. Animals were killed, but no people were harmed.

I spent two weeks in Satartia, interviewing victims, first responders and others. I spent 19 months researching and writing the Huffpost story "The Gassing of Satartia" that appeared in August 2021.

Q: Does Attachment No. 2 to this testimony describe your findings, research, opinions, and concerns that you want the PUC to be aware of relative to the proposed CO₂ pipeline in question?

A: Yes, that is a true and accurate copy of an article I authored describing the effects of a CO2 pipeline exploding in Satartia, Mississippi. I stand by my positions and opinions discussed therein and am competent to testify about them as necessary. I urge the PUC to carefully consider this testimony during the Hearing in this matter and in your deliberations. I further reserve the right to amend or modify these opinions upon presentation of any additional information that may justify such a change.

Q: Are all of your opinions provided based upon your education, training, experience, and background and given to a reasonable degree of professional certainty?

A: Yes.

Dated June 16, 2023

/s/ Dan Zegart

Dan Zegart