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

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

**HLP22-001**

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF  
JACK WILLINGHAM  
IN SUPPORT OF LANDOWNER  
INTERVENORS**

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- Q: Please state your name and purpose for providing testimony in these proceedings.**
- A: My name is Jack Willingham. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the PUC information about my personal experiences and observations of the negative impacts of CO2 pipelines, the importance not locating or siting such hazardous pipelines anywhere within a mile or less of people or livestock, and my overall frightening experience with the CO2 pipeline rupture and explosion in Satartia Mississippi that occurred on February 22, 2020.
- Q: Describe to the PUC Commissioners your experience with the CO2 pipeline rupture and explosion in Satartia Mississippi and every detail of what you observed and experienced including where you were and how far away from the pipeline you were when you began to realize something was different that day.**
- A: That particular day I was actually at home and we received a call about a green gas with a rotten egg smell in the area of highway 3 and 433. Of course, we sent first responders out. We then started receiving calls from people that were having trouble breathing and vehicles that were being shut down and unable to travel, so I knew we had a problem. I didn't know what it was. We got to checking different areas, different pipelines. We went down the list and 40 minutes into it, one of my chiefs contacted Denbury and asked if they had a problem. They told us they had seen a

drop in pressure around 7:07PM. I had numerous responders, by the end of everything probably at least 100 staff and volunteers involved, but they went house to house trying to clear the area. Some of them with air packs, some of them without. The ones that went in without air packs were struggled tremendously to breathe. I think that night 45 people were transported to the hospital, all within a 2 mile range of the actual explosion, or the rupture. It was hours from when it started to when we were called and told it had completely stopped leaking. We monitored the air all night. Even the next morning, 8, 9 o'clock we were still going house to house with the air monitoring company where it was still showing toxic amounts of CO2. So, it was 14-16 hours for people to go back to their residences. The town had to stay evacuated that long. The town looked like a zombie apocalypse movie. I mean, there were abandoned vehicles and abandoned houses. Stuff was just in the street where people left it. It was crazy. It was like something out of the movies and had an eerie feel to it.

**Q: Describe to the PUC Commissioners what you believe should have been done differently and what could have prevented your exposure to the Sartaria CO2 pipeline rupture incident.**

A: PHMSA conducted an investigation and they found several things that caused the pipeline rupture. I think the rupture was caused by a shift in the ground and there was not enough protections done to make sure this was not happening. Our biggest concern is that we weren't even aware there was a pipeline in our community, a lot of education could have been given to us to let us know how to respond or help citizens know how to respond. CO2 monitors could have been given out in the community. There were numerous things that could have been done differently. And my thing is, some sort of communication between us first responders and the pipeline operator would have helped tremendously. We just did not have it.

**Q: If there is anything else you believe the South Dakota Public Utility Commission should know based upon your experiences and observations that we have not already covered please add that here.**

A: These people that are telling you the CO2 is not dangerous are giving out a fantasy. I witnessed it. I saw it, and I say this every time I talk to people. A pillow's not dangerous either until you put it over somebody's face. When this amount of CO2 is released in a non-controlled environment with the atmospheric conditions they had that night, it was a deadly situation. There is a number of people in the community that would not be alive today but for the work of the responders that went out at risk to their lives and pulled them out. It's just like people say, "It's CO2 what you're drinking in your coke." I'd like them to be able to take a drink of what was out there that particular night. I don't think they'd feel the same. I hear everybody talking about how this thing will be run in non-populated areas. Well, Sartatia was a non-populated area. Are their lives worth less than people that live in populated areas? Is that what we're saying here?

I urge the PUC to carefully consider this testimony during the Hearing in this matter and in your deliberations. Based on my experiences I do not believe there are conditions that can be placed upon these proposed hazardous CO2 pipelines unless they are at a minimum one mile away from any residence or place where people regularly gather. I further reserve the right to amend or modify these opinions upon presentation of any additional information that may justify such a change.

**Dated June 16, 2023**

*/s/ Jack Willingham*

Jack Willingham