

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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HP 22-002

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION :  
OF NAVIGATOR HEARTLAND :  
GREENWAY, LLC FOR A PERMIT UNDER :  
THE SOUTH DAKOTA ENERGY :  
CONVERSION AND TRANSMISSION :  
FACILITIES ACT TO CONSTRUCT THE :  
HEARTLAND GREENWAY PIPELINE IN :  
SOUTH DAKOTA, :  
:  
:

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF  
ELIZABETH BURNS-THOMPSON**

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**1. Please state your name and address for the record.**

Answer: My name is Elizabeth Burns-Thompson. My business address is  
13333 California Street, Omaha, NE 68154.

**2. Please state your position with Navigator and provide a description of your responsibility with respect to the Heartland Greenway Project.**

Answer: I am Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for Navigator CO2 Ventures, LLC. I am responsible for external stakeholder engagement and communications.

**3. Please describe your educational and professional background.**

Answer: I have a B.S. degree in Agricultural Business and International Agriculture from Iowa State University, and a J.D. degree from Drake Law School with a specialization in agricultural law and policy. Before joining Navigator, I worked for more than a decade in agriculture and energy policy doing public policy and grassroots engagement at the federal, state, and local levels for a variety of the major agricultural trade and commodity associations in Iowa,

as well as the nation's largest biodiesel producer, Renewable Energy Group, Inc. (now Chevron Renewable Energy Group). A copy of my current resume is attached as Exhibit A.

**4. Please describe your responsibilities with Navigator.**

Answer: My primary responsibilities involve public outreach, including working with media, industry stakeholders, and governmental representatives.

**5. Have you previously submitted or prepared testimony for this proceeding in South Dakota?**

Answer: No.

**6. Please state for which sections of the application that Navigator has filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission you are responsible.**

Answer:

Section 1.2—Demand for the Project

Section 7.9—Commercial and Industrial Sectors

Section 7.10—Agriculture

**7. Please describe the reasons ethanol facilities are interested in working with Navigator to transport CO2.**

Answer: As explained in Sections 1.2 and 7.9 of the Application, the Heartland Greenway System will facilitate significant CO2 emissions reductions and allow industry partners in the project footprint to meet their carbon-reduction goals. The ethanol industry has pledged to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions 70% by 2030 and to achieve net zero ethanol by 2050. Carbon capture is the most powerful tool for ethanol producers to meet this goal; in fact, ethanol producers will likely be unable to reach net zero without broad adoption of carbon-capture technology. Benefits from the capture and permanent storage of CO2 can be more easily

understood by using the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator by showing equivalent offsets. Table 1.2-1 in the Application shows the Project CO2 emission offsets based on the current project scope in South Dakota. In addition, capturing and sequestering CO2 offers ethanol producers the eligibility for federal tax incentives, to participate in voluntary carbon offsets markets, and to receive premium prices for their products that are produced through low carbon-emitting processes. Participating facilities may be eligible for a federal tax credit up to \$85 per metric ton of sequestered CO2, and ethanol facilities that reduce emissions will have the potential to achieve a premium in Low-Carbon Fuel Standard markets. Thus, the Project will help ethanol producers in South Dakota remain competitive with other fuel sources and support the long-term viability of the industry.

**8. Please explain the benefits of the Project to agriculture in South Dakota.**

Answer: As stated in Section 7.10 of the Application, by supporting the long-term sustainability, viability, and cost-competitiveness of the Midwest ethanol industry, the Project will also strengthen and support Midwest agriculture. A strong and competitive ethanol industry is beneficial for Midwest agriculture. The ethanol industry buys more than 50% of South Dakota's corn crop each year, which provides South Dakota farms with a reliable corn market and underpins the value of six million acres of South Dakota farmland.

**9. Please describe your engagement with local governments before the application was filed with the Public Utilities Commission.**

Answer: We engaged with county officials starting in January 2022 to introduce the Project. We had follow-up meetings with county commissioners, zoning officials, emergency managers, and other local-government officials starting in the second quarter of 2022 to answer questions about the Project, and to learn from local officials how best to address Project-related

concerns. Many of these meetings have been public. Our communications with these entities are ongoing and will continue throughout permitting and construction of the Project.

**10. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

Answer: Yes.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2022.

/s/ Elizabeth Burns-Thompson  
Elizabeth Burns-Thompson