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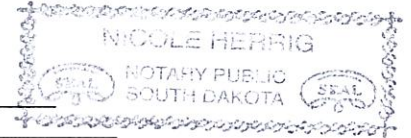
JAN 21 2025

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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# LANDOWNER RALLY

## Set - January 13 in Pierre

By Amanda Radke

Last year, during the 2024 legislative session, we were told by an elected official in a testimony on the floor that the proposed carbon sequestration pipeline, and the legislation that would be created around it, would set the precedent for "50 years of projects ahead."

Although I'm sure this politician meant it as a promise of opportunity, from my vantage point as a landowner sitting in the gallery above, it sounded forboding, like a threat to my land and private property rights.

And why would I, and so many others, have that reaction to this statement?

It could be perhaps that more than 100 landowners had already, at this point, received condemnation papers and threats of eminent domain use from a privately-owned, out-of-state company.

It could be because we see the Green New Deal coming into our state, and the thought of greenwashing the entire prairie with tens of thousands of acres of ugly solar panels and wind turbines makes our stomachs churn.

It could be because we have

seen the demise of rural communities, with main street businesses closing and thousands of small and mid-sized family farms going out of business each year - in favor of increased consolidation and corporatization of our food supply.

We know and can clearly see that the "get big or get out" mentality has permeated our rural, agricultural states, perpetuated by government programs incentivizing some markets and creating upheaval in other markets, and it's not what a fair and true capitalist, free market society should

look like.

So now when we hear about "fifty years of projects," we look at it with eyebrows raised, and When politicians give passionate speeches about "economic development" and "valued-added agriculture," their messages falls increasingly flat.

If your ideas of picking winners and losers in agriculture (using our tax payer dollars, by the way) worked so well and improved the lives and opportunities of family farms and ranches, then why are our rural communities carved out? Why are we struggling to keep small schools open? Why are the main streets sitting empty? Why are fewer young people able to get involved in production agriculture?

Perhaps (I'll say the quiet part out loud here), your ideas of economic development and value-added agriculture really is about funneling our hard-earned money to the corporate donor class and the interests of billionaires, rather than serving the very people who call this prairie "home."

Folks, we are in the middle of an outright land grab in our rural state one that holds the future of our rural landscape in the palm of its hand.

These developers bringing in their artificial intelligence data centers, green energy projects, sustainable aviation jet fuel plants, and ridiculous carbon pipeline seams do nothing for the average citizen and the families who have planted roots here.

Yet, here in flyover country a place that used to be largely overlooked we are very much the center of discussion and attention on a national stage. And why would that be? Could it be because so many acres of wide open prairie, with access to unadulterated natural resources, might be quite valuable to the corporations who desperately want access to it?

And could the people finally be realizing the truth that the only thing standing in the way of their "progress," is YOU, the landowner?

I've often contended that he who controls the land, controls the food, and who controls the food, controls the people.

Who do you want holding that much control? A wide range of diverse, independent families to create a robust and well-spread out food system? Or a corporatized, consolidated machine that creates cheap food and food deserts, while ultimately pushing families into big cities, off the land, for good?

If I paint a grim picture, I apologize, but there's no way to sugar coat the impact of some of these proposed "fifty years of projects ahead."

However, despite these external threats that seek to eliminate our beloved farming and ranching communities, I am actually quite optimistic about what's ahead in 2025. With a change in administration and certain shakeups coming, now might be the opportunity for entrepreneurs, innovators, and creative young people to find their way back to rural America.

I am hopeful about what is ahead, and I believe we are well-positioned to create a climate where we truly control the land under our feet.

In the state of South Dakota, we have important discussions that will soon arise as we welcome a new year. The 2024 primary and general elections have given us a new class of legislators in Pierre with both the House and Senate leadership changing hands to individuals who have proven their commitment to stand with landowners.

We have a real shot at getting the eminent domain reform we deserve in South Dakota, and we have a mandate by the people to get this done. If our defeat of RL21 was any indication where the voters turned down a carbon pipeline bill with a 59% NO vote in 65 of 66 counties then the message is loud and clear: strengthened private property rights are desperately needed and expected in South Dakota, without delay.

On January 13, I invite you to join us as a landowner rally in Pierre, SD, at noon in the Capitol, where we will send a message to our legislators that will echo the halls of the rotunda in South Dakota, we may be open for business, but we are not for sale! Now, let's get to work.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**WHAT:** Notice of Public Meetings regarding Permit to Construct a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline in the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Davison, Edmunds, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Minnehaha, Miner, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, Turner, and Union.

#### WHEN AND WHERE:

**MITCHELL:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., CT  
Mitchell High School Performing Arts Center,  
821 N. Capital St., Mitchell, South Dakota.

**SIOUX FALLS:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., CT  
HUB Auditorium, Southeast Technical College,  
2001 N. Career Ave., Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**DE SMET:** Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 11:30 a.m., CT  
De Smet Event Center Theater, 705 Wilder Lane, De Smet, South Dakota.

**WATERTOWN:** Thursday, January 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., CT  
Kampeska Hall, Ramkota Hotel & Watertown Event Center,  
1901 Ninth Ave. SW, Watertown, South Dakota.

**ABERDEEN:** Friday, January 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., CT  
Dakota Room, The Dakota Event Center, 720 L. Amont St., Aberdeen, South Dakota.

**REDFIELD:** Friday, January 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., CT  
Redfield School Auditorium, 111 E. Sixth Ave., Redfield, South Dakota.

Pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public input meetings at the above times and places on an application filed by SCS Carbon Transport LLC (Applicant) to construct a carbon dioxide (CO2) transmission pipeline (Project). The Project, which has been named the Midwest Carbon Express pipeline, is approximately 2,500 miles of pipelines for the transportation of CO2 from ethanol plants across 5 states, including 15 in South Dakota, to sequestration sites in North Dakota. The main line of the proposed route enters South Dakota in Lincoln County at the lower/South Dakota border and extends in a northwesterly direction, exiting the state at the South Dakota/North Dakota border in McPherson County. Major components and associated facilities planned in South Dakota are expected to include pump stations, main line valves, launcher-receiver sites, and approximately 16 total miles of temporary and permanent access roads as part of the Project. In addition to the main line and other components, the proposed Project includes lateral and trunk lines connecting ethanol plants throughout the eastern part of South Dakota to the main line. The total proposed length of pipelines through South Dakota is approximately 698 miles and will cross the counties of Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Clark, Codington, Davison, Edmunds, Grant, Hamlin, Hand, Hyde, Kingsbury, Lake, Lincoln, McCook, McPherson, Minnehaha, Miner, Sanborn, Spink, Sully, Turner, and Union. Applicant estimates the total cost of the proposed Project in South Dakota to be \$1351563747.

The purpose of the public input meetings will be to hear public comments regarding the permit Application and the Project. At the meetings, Applicant will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the auditor in each of the above listed counties pursuant to SDCL 49-41B and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the docket, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at [puc.sd.gov](http://puc.sd.gov) under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, 2024 Hydrocarbon and Carbon Dioxide Pipeline Dockets, HP24-001.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission Staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input meetings or may be obtained from the Commission's website. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CT, January 24, 2025. The Commission will also accept comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail until the time of the final decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct. You do not need to have party status in order to submit written comments.

Following the public input meetings, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider issues raised by any party or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses, and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, the Applicant must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-28, a permit from the Commission for the construction of a transmission facility may supersede or preempt any county or municipal land use, zoning, or building rules, regulations, or ordinances upon a finding by the Commission that such rules, or regulations, or ordinances, as applied to the proposed route, are unreasonably restrictive in view of existing technology, factors of cost, or economics, or needs of parties where located in or out of the county or municipality. Without such a finding by the Commission, no route shall be designated which violates local land-use zoning, or building rules, or regulations, or ordinances.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these meetings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

The Commission's contact information is: Ph (605) 773-3201; [puc.sd.gov](http://puc.sd.gov); [puc@state.sd.us](http://puc@state.sd.us); 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

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