

James River Pipeline Crossing Concerns

This pipeline imposes an environmental, economic, and health and safety risk upon our neighbors and ourselves.

The location of our home, family ranch and business employing 12 people all lie in the James River valley just north of Mitchell.

Our location is in a low-lying James River valley just 1 mile from where the proposed route crosses the river.

This is not just another pipeline, CO₂ is over 1.5 times heavier than the air we breathe, and if there is a rupture there is a high probability of that heavy gas hanging in the river valley where we and our neighbors live. With a pressure of approximately 2000 psi, and an enormous expansion ratio, in the event of a rupture, this is a serious threat to our lives, our environment and our livestock.

As any of us who live and operate in the James River valley know, this river is not the old lazy river it once was, we have a 500-year flood every few years. This river is now a lake, as much as it is a stream.

On November 21, 2024. as per Report to the Water Management Board, they state that the James River has experienced a near 300% increase in its annual flow since the late 1990s. That is 3 times the historical flow rate.

I am concerned about the erosion factor that the ever-changing river will force upon a high-pressure pipeline crossing. With a river running 20 feet deep in places, this variable stream bed is rapidly cutting new channels in a ½ mile wide valley. In the 5 miles downstream from our property the river has cut and developed 6 new channels, some of those channels have shifted nearly ½ mile from the original riverbed. I recently alerted the Sunoco petroleum pipeline of this exposure, for the river is cutting a new channel across their pipeline on ours and the neighbor's land. Just as it will do to the Summit pipeline. These factors increase the risk of a rupture.

In the event of a rupture, what will happen to our water quality, what does a water plume study look like. How will it behave in a valley?

With Summit's 5 proposed James River crossings, I am concerned, I read in Summit's application, appendix 14, that the James River water crossing near

me has a length of 159.27 feet, (Please correct me if I miss stated). Common sense tells us that to avoid potential exposure, this pipe would need be nearly 30' deep for ½ mile to avoid this 300% increase in flows and the cutting meandering channels, shifting from one side of the valley to the other. If they shortcut this and only do what is required by regulation on paper, these river crossings will be a wreck waiting to happen.

This is why we need local control, nobody knows our environment better than we, the people who live and operate here.

I am very uncomfortable putting my family and employees' lives in the hands of a company, profit driven by tax credits, that has never managed the build and operation of a carbon pipeline.

I ask the PUC to deny Summit's permit.

Thank you.

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