

From: mazzerb[REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 1:46 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Public Comment for Docket # H24-001

Date: January 7, 2025
Docket No: HP24-001
Sitting Project Name: In Matter of the Application by SCS Carbon Transport LLC for a Permit to Construction a Carbon Dioxide Transmission Pipeline

I am writing to express my strong concern and opposition to the proposed Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline. The proposed route through Spink County would impact more than half of our family's farmland. My late husband and I have farmed this land since 1968. For the following reasons, I respectfully urge the Public Utilities Commission to reject Summit's application for construction:

1. **Landowner Rights:** Property owners should retain control over the land they have purchased and dedicated their lives to. No billion-dollar corporation should have the authority to infringe upon the rights or property of landowners.
2. **Legacy and Economic Impact:** My husband and I worked tirelessly for fifty years, living modestly in order to build a legacy for our children and grandchildren. The proposed pipeline route runs within a quarter-mile of our farmstead, severely limiting our children's ability to expand and develop the area. Furthermore, the pipeline would significantly diminish the value of our property.
3. **Environmental Stewardship:** South Dakota farmers, including our family, take immense pride in being responsible stewards of the land. We have long utilized sustainable farming practices to protect against erosion, including planting trees, maintaining grasslands, and rotating crops. The construction of this pipeline would cause severe erosion of the riverbank along the James River, undermining these efforts.
4. **Wildlife Protection:** As landowners, it is our duty to safeguard wildlife by maintaining adequate vegetation, trees, and clean water. Summit's Threatened and Endangered Species Report identifies only one endangered species—the Topeka Shiner—in section SDM-105. This information is inaccurate, as it fails to acknowledge other species, such as the Mountain Lion, which occasionally passes through the area, as well as the Whooping Cranes and Bald Eagles that migrate through the James River region each spring and fall. The pipeline would disrupt the migration of these endangered species, along with displacing of other local wildlife.
5. **Risk Assessment and Financial Impact:** As farmers, we understand the inherent risks in agriculture; however, some risks are simply not worth taking. Summit's Risk Assessment Report places a monetary value on the potential cost of an "incident"—\$21,670 per incident for our section of Spink County. However, this figure does not account for the damage to crops, water, wildlife, or wetlands, nor does it consider the loss of income and property value. These resources have far greater value than any dollar amount can capture, and no compensation could fully mitigate the long-term damage.

In conclusion, the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline poses significant risks to the environment, the economic stability of our property, and the future development of our family's farm. I respectfully request that you reject Summit Carbon Solutions' application for construction permits in Spink County. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Ann Zerbel
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