

From: SCOTT ZORNO [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 2:43 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Comments on docket HP-24-001 CO2 Pipeline

P.U.C. Members,

I am writing this to express my grave concern for human and livestock safety with the proposed CO2 pipeline. My concern is for emergency response to a leak or rupture. As a rural emergency responder, here is my specific concern:

There does not seem to be any plan for training or specialized equipment for first responders at agencies adjoining the pipeline path. When safety valves are 7 miles apart (or however far the plan is now) and the pipeline is pressurized to over 2000 psi, that means any leak of consequence will dump huge quantities of CO2 *very suddenly into the air*. CO2 is heavier than air and follows the ground like water. It goes downhill unless dissipated by wind. Low spots and river valleys near the rupture become death traps. The average rural volunteer firefighter without substantial training would not know anything was wrong until he goes near a river bottom and his truck stops running. At that point he has a short period of time to escape himself. Without sensors and specific training, the rural firefighter is needlessly risking his life to respond to a leak, or even to set up a safety perimeter around a leak. And the risk to livestock is even more significant as cattle and other animals frequent the river bottoms for water. A badly occurring rupture could wipe out a bunch of livestock very quickly. Responder risk and livestock risk are substantial and not to be discounted. And I have not touched the gargantuan risk to the general public.

I would like to close with a comment as a recent transplant to South Dakota. I came here for freedom from government foolishness. I consider property owner rights as a key point in that freedom. The strong-arming of SD residents to allow a pipeline easement is egregious. The people of SD turned DOWN RL-21 in the last election. That was largely due to safety and property rights concerns over the proposed pipeline. Please support the will of the people and do NOT give any more approvals to the CO2 pipeline, no matter what the name of the company changes to.

Sincere Regards,

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