

Docket HO09-01
Mike and Sue Sibson

November 2, 2009

Greetings South Dakota PUC Commissioners and Staff:

Due to the late soybean harvest we are unable to attend tonight's comment period. We want to thank Dakota Rural Action for agreeing to read the following testimony.

This is the testimony of Mike and Sue Sibson regarding the construction of TransCanada's Keystone pipeline PUC docket number HP07-001. This is our story of some of the construction process, PUC conditions not being followed and the construction agreement with TransCanada that was breeched many times. We want the Commissioners to understand that what we have to say all has documentation to prove that what we went thru is the truth.

June 23, 2009

Michels construction workers and vehicles knowingly trespassed on our property. They drove across a vacated unimproved section line to put up goal post poles for transmission power lines. The workers left garbage and when leaving our property failed to properly close a gate. We did not press charges against them even though they lied about the incident. We gave the company a free pass.

August 24-26, 2009

The pipe bending crew. They had no respect for our property. They left their garbage all over our property at the end of the day. In our construction agreement we asked to have all garbage removed it was not followed. The crew was busy writing messages to each other on the pipe maybe that is why the garbage was left. We still would like to know who Jim and Sally are. We had to make phone calls to the construction company and Sarah Metcalf before the garbage was finally taken care of.

June – October 2009

As we live close to the township road. We requested reduced speed signs and dust control. Many construction vehicles did not follow the reduced speed signs. We do have documentation of the speeding trucks. We also witnessed loaded fuel trucks failing to follow the law about stopping at stop signs even in fog.

September 3, 2009

PUC Condition 34.

We feel that this condition was not followed on our property. After an over night rain of 1.30" construction continued. This was probably the worst day of our lives. There were many construction vehicles slugging mud to dig the trench. It was not a pretty site. Water

was pumped off the easement area to our property. The construction company did not follow the construction agreement again. We did not give permission to dewater. The wetland areas on our property were a big mess.

September 2009

PUC Condition 15 

We were told that to complete and sign a construction agreement ~~it would help protect us~~ as landowners. We did sign the agreement July 9, 2009. ~~Sounds good. Right?~~ Once again, though what is on paper and what actually happens are very different. The construction company did what they wanted to do with little regard to any agreements we signed.

September 2009

PUC Condition 18. 

Construction agreement 13. Rock removal. We requested that we did want rock removal and we wanted the rocks hauled off. Once again, our request was not even considered as the huge rock pile was buried on our property. Some single rocks on the easement area were pushed into the clay and covered with topsoil. This condition states that all rock ~~is~~ ~~and~~ to be considered construction debris. Why were the rocks not hauled away?

We just wanted you to know that the permit conditions that you granted to TransCanada's Keystone project were not exactly followed. Commissioners, maybe now you know how the landowners feel when conditions, requests and rights are totally ignored.

In closing, we want to thank Lillian Anderson, Kent Moeckly and Curt Hohn for all the help they gave us the past three years. We need to elect more people like them to public office.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike and Sue Sibson