

July 21, 2023

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission

Re: HP22-001 and HP22-002

Dear Commissioners Kristie Fiegen, Gary Hanson, Chris Nelson, and appointed Josh Haeder:

As the hearings for Navigator and Summit approach, I ask that you thoroughly research the possible injury to the environmental, social and economic condition of the inhabitants in the siting area as well as the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants. And as you consider if the orderly development of the region is unduly interfered with, you need to consider what the inhabitants have planned in the development of their own property—not just what county commissioners have planned. Have you, the PUC and staff, done any research on what development was planned by individuals? Whether it be homes, businesses, or farm buildings, each one is important in the development of our state as more and more people move to South Dakota. My experience with the oil pipeline resulted in ending my plans for family to build along Highway 38 just west of Hartford.

If you would review the HP 14-002 docket that includes quarterly reports from the appointed DAPL Liaison, you will see the reclamation issues that landowners faced with the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Please keep in mind that those reports do not reflect the hours and days spent by landowners on dealing with those issues. Time was taken away from families to fix problems that should have never happened. The docket is only a glimpse of the damage landowners had to deal with. The landowners (and townships) experienced significant problems with compaction, drain tile damage, flooding, improper restoration of the land, damage of roads, organic farming difficulties, livestock damage, improper fence installation, loss of crops beyond three years, resurrected thistle seeds, weeds left to multiply, erosion, garbage left to be covered by machinery or soil during a rain, crevices where soil has settled, and more! (If I were allowed to, I would have attached the hundreds of photos to support this listing as well as to show the oil that leaked out of the pipeline prior to a 2020 “maintenance dig”. Property owners across South Dakota-Take photos before, during and after any survey or construction is done!!!) The PUC does not cover the attorney fees paid to deal with these issues. I, personally, am still dealing with issues since the 2016 construction. In addition, I am not able to obtain liability insurance for accidental pipeline damage by me or my renter or if a neighbor should sue me due to damage by a leak.

Once DAPL received the “green light” for construction, the construction began at a “fast and furious” pace. This resulted in mistakes, disrespectful encounters with landowners, and disregard for the PUC permit conditions. Copies of easement agreements and field drain tile maps were not passed on to the construction crews from the management of DAPL. From the actions already taken by the applicants of HP22-001 and HP22-002, I don’t see how the construction of the carbon pipelines will be any different from that of the oil pipelines.

Here in South Dakota, we don’t consider carbon dioxide as a pollutant. We need it for our crops, trees, plants, and gardens to grow! This DANGEROUS pipeline is not for the public good! This is more of an opportunity for foreign countries and businesses to take control of our land and food supply. We are the heart of the Midwest. And as you represent the inhabitants of this state, please DENY the permits to construct carbon pipelines. Please protect the people who you represent. Thank you.
Peggy Hoogestraat, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Chancellor, SD 57015, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]