

**From:** Chris Nelson  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2022 2:36 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Van Gerpen, Patty  
**Subject:** RE: [EXT] Carbon pipeline

Tony,

Thanks for your email.

By law I am prohibited from visiting about the details of open dockets such as the Summit and Navigator pipelines with anyone outside of a public meeting. That law is meant to maintain the impartiality of commissioners so they can't be swayed "behind closed doors" by either side of a docket question. Your comments to me must also be publicly disclosed and will be posted in those two pipeline dockets on the PUC website.

As you may know public utility commissioners are prohibited by law from having a conflict of interest or bias on cases before the commission until all the evidence and facts have been presented. We are a long way from having all the evidence gathered as it relates to Summit and Navigator. This is much like a judge can't decide a case in the courtroom before the evidence and testimony is presented. Hence I can't answer your question regarding my "thoughts" on the pipeline. The job of Commissioner is to critically evaluate the evidence and facts of each case and apply the law as written by the legislature. Any decision made outside of that framework is subject to being overturned by the courts.

If you have other comments you would like all three commissioners to consider you can submit those using the process provided at <https://puc.sd.gov/contact/>. Thanks again for sharing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

*Chris Nelson*