

Minnehaha County Board of Commissioners

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Respected Members of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission:

The Minnehaha County Auditor received a copy of the application, mailed September 29, 2022, in the matter of Navigator Heartland Greenway, LLC for a permit to construct the Heartland Greenway carbon dioxide transmission pipeline.

The proposed carbon dioxide transmission pipeline, PUC Docket HP22-002, enters the southeast portion of Minnehaha County and runs approximately northwest, covering 28.05 miles across eastern portion of Minnehaha County.

We remain concerned about carbon dioxide transmission pipelines. We would encourage the PUC to use its opportunity within its upcoming hearings to establish a clear record of the scope and scale of any potential hazards that will now affect County Emergency Management Plans. Navigator has held one training for first responders in Minnehaha County, which two of our commissioners attended. Navigator is also offering additional virtual training for first responders. While this is a good start, more training and assistance will be needed. We will rely in part on the record from the PUC's permit hearing to hold Navigator accountable to its assessment of public safety issues and its own role in mitigating those issues. Of course, we also reserve all rights as a county to regulate aspects of the pipeline consistent with state and federal law.

We would also like to see some long-term issues addressed such as appropriate bonding or other "exit strategy" elements should the pipeline cease operation. Relatedly, it should be made clear that landowners be held harmless from all liabilities and damages that would arise from the pipeline during operation or after the pipeline would cease operation.

Finally, Minnehaha County urges the Public Utilities Commission to seriously consider the comments of the citizens of South Dakota as a primary variable in determining the outcome of this PUC Docket HP22-002.



Jean Bender
Chair, Minnehaha County Commission



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