



Kristie Fiegen, Chairperson  
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*South Dakota*

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

500 East Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070  
[www.puc.sd.gov](http://www.puc.sd.gov)

Capitol Office  
(605) 773-3201

Grain Warehouse  
(605) 773-5280

Consumer Hotline  
1-800-332-1782

Email  
[puc@state.sd.us](mailto:puc@state.sd.us)

Patricia Van Gerpen  
Executive Director  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: In the Matter of Staff's Request for Release of Segment of Pipe Involved in February 6, 2018 Incident**

Ms. Van Gerpen,

Staff requests a docket be opened for the purpose of obtaining Commission approval to release a section of pipe involved in the February 6, 2018, incident Aberdeen, SD. Pursuant to SDCL 49-34B-26, an operator not may dispose of, destroy, or alter the part of a pipeline that was involved in the emergency release until approval is granted by the commission. Approval is sought to release to section of pipe to Liberty Mutual Insurance Company for destructive testing.

Staff has completed its investigation in this matter. Staff recommends approval be granted. Upon approval, the section of pipe will be released to Liberty Mutual and shipped to its outside expert.

The parties to this new docket should be NorthWestern and Staff. Staff requests an intervention date of September 17, 2018.

Sincerely,

Kristen N. Edwards  
Staff Attorney