



# Public Service Commission

## Kevin Cramer, Commissioner

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### MEMO

TO: Case File PU-06-421  
RE: Ex Parte Communication  
DATE: July 30, 2007

On two occasions I have taken tours of land staked out for crossing of the TransCanada Keystone Pipeline.

After the hearing in Valley City on July 23, 2007 I met Ramona Klein, an intervener in the case, at the land owned by her cousin, Richard Starke. Ms. Klein showed me where the pipeline is staked to cross Mr. Starke's land on the south side of Interstate 94 then showed me where it is to cross her land on the north side of Interstate 94. There was a small group of folks with us as Ms. Klein showed me the area.

Most of the discussion relating to the case was confined to pointing out where the stakes are and repeating concerns raised during the hearing. There were some questions about procedural issues I was able to answer but nothing substantive or relevant to testimony or evidence. It was kind of them to show me the area and they appreciated the interest.

On Friday, July 27, 2007 I contacted Vaughn Zacharias, a farmer in the Sheyenne Valley near Kathryn. Mr. Zacharias testified in Valley City that he had some Indian burial grounds on his land. He testified that he did not oppose the project but hoped the company could work with him to avoid destroying the burial sites.

I met Mr. Zacharias at his farm and he took me on a tour of his land where the pipeline will cross. He showed me where the burial sites are as well as a natural drain to the Sheyenne River. I took the time to look at some other areas that will be crossed near Little Yellowstone Park.

All of my discussion with Mr. Zacharias covered the same topics he testified about as well as some procedural questions he had about this case and other PSC activities. I am grateful for his interest and willingness to show me around his land.