

**Upper Sheyenne River Joint  
Water Resource Board**

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*Providing a coordinated and cooperative approach to planning and  
implementing a comprehensive water management program in the  
Upper Sheyenne Watershed*

September 20, 2007

Elizabeth Orlando  
OES/ENV Room 2657  
U.S. Department of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520



RE: Keystone Oil Pipeline Project

The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board represents 12 counties in North Dakota. This Board is concerned with the proposed Keystone Pipeline in regard to water quality issues within the watershed.

The proposed route from the Luverne Pumping Station in Steele County and south comes very close to the Sheyenne River and Lake Ashtabula. The Board suggests moving the line to a ridge approximately 3 to 5 miles east. This would give some protection to the river, in the event there is a leak, by detecting it before it would reach the river or Lake Ashtabula.

The Board is also concerned with comments that the pipe thickness would fluctuate in rural areas. The Upper Sheyenne River Joint Water Resource Board strongly requests that the standard thickness is maintained with no variances allowed.

Respectfully,

Ben Varnson, Chairman

Copy: North Dakota Public Service Commission  
North Dakota Department of Health  
Senator Kent Conrad  
Senator Byron Dorgan  
Representative Earl Pomeroy  
Mary Lee Nielson, Mayor, Valley City, ND

BAV:ckv

County Members

Barnes County WRD    Benson County WRD    Eddy County WRD    Foster County WRD    Griggs County WRD  
McHenry County WRD    Nelson County WRD    Pierce County WRD    Sheridan County WRD  
Steele County WRD    Stutsman County WRD    Wells County WRD