

**Rafferty, Tom D.**

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**From:** Rafferty, Tom D.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 10, 2007 2:40 PM  
**To:** 'Elk42041@aol.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Keystone pipeline.  
**Attachments:** pud-2-participation-process.pdf; NoticeofFilingandHearing.doc

Dear Buel,

Thank you for submitting comments to the Public Service Commission regarding the proposed pipeline that TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP has applied for permission to build in eastern North Dakota. We appreciate your interest in this case and we will place your comments in the public input file.

I have included a copy of the Commission's Notice of Filing and Notice of Hearing with this letter and an informational brochure about formal cases. You are welcome to attend the hearings. In addition, you can find information about this case on the commission's website, [www.psc.state.nd.us](http://www.psc.state.nd.us).

It is important to note that because this is a formal case before the Commission, both written and verbal comments submitted to the Commission, are not part of the formal evidentiary record on which the decision must be based. However, the comments that are not part of the formal record may form the basis for investigation and testimony that becomes part of the formal record. Comments become part of the formal record when they are made or submitted at a formal or technical hearing, where they must be made under oath and subject to cross-examination.

A more complete explanation of formal and informal comments is explained in the brochure that is included with this letter. If you need more information, please contact our office or visit our website.

Sincerely,

*Tom Rafferty*  
*Consumer Affairs/Public Outreach Specialist*  
*North Dakota Public Service Commission*  
*State Capitol, 12th Floor, Dept. 408*  
*600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck, ND 58505-0480*  
*Phone: 701-328-4078*  
*Fax: 701-328-2410*

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**From:** Bauske, Shelly A.  
**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2007 9:05 AM  
**To:** -Grp-PSC Commissioners; -Grp-PSC Public Utilities  
**Subject:** FW: Keystone pipeline.

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**From:** Elk42041@aol.com [mailto:Elk42041@aol.com]

**Sent:** Monday, July 09, 2007 8:59 AM

**To:** -Info-Public Service Commission

**Cc:** scott@wday.com

**Subject:** Keystone pipeline.

### Poor Route Selection for Canadian Pipeline.

The pipeline to be built through eastern North Dakota will carry Canadian crude oil from the northern Alberta tar sands field to Illinois refineries. This is a significant development of great benefit to the USA and pipelines are necessary to meet our petroleum needs. What the public needs to be aware of is the proposed route of the pipeline as it runs through ND.

ND is notorious for its wide open spaces. So the few beautiful scenic areas with forested, hilly terrain and rivers through them are very unique and precious to the eastern end of the state.

First area of concern starts soon after the line enters the state, it passes a few miles west of Walhalla, between that city and the spectacular Pembina Gorge. This is truly a very beautiful, unique area of rough, forested terrain. Another spectacular area of equal beauty is in south eastern ND where the pipeline crosses the Sheyenne River between the Little Yellowstone Park and Fort Ransom State Park, cutting through the heart of this precious, wooded valley. The route starts paralleling the Sheyenne River 35 miles north of Valley City, where it comes with-in 2 or 3 miles of Lake Ashtabula at Sibley, ND.

Do oil pipelines ever leak? While in the event it should, consider where the natural drainage goes! The Sheyenne River and Lake Ashtabula are expected to be an important source of water for all the cities in the Red River Valley some day. Legislation to this effect was passed in the 2007 session.

Yes I know construction of the pipeline had to clear an Environmental Impact Study and that it will be buried 4 feet in the ground. Still a pathway has to be grubbed out through these special scenic areas of which we have so few. And vehicle access must be maintained indefinitely. Think of trying to minimize environmental damage by containing a leak in the rough, forested terrain of the areas mentioned.

With our states vast areas of open agricultural land, why would this proposed route even be considered. The route was moved once to avoid the Fordville Aquifer. Why wouldn't the Sheyenne River be exposed to the same perils? The state has several highways running north and south through it. Would it be to simple to use the right of way already established for them. Sure would provide good access for maintenance and also containment of a possible leak. Yes, again we all can come up with reasons it could not be done. The old adage "where there's a will, there's a way" could prevail if the Public Service Commission is willing to stand up and serve the public as they are expected too. The PSC will be holding hearings before considering a route permit. Hearings are July 23 in Valley City and July 24 in Park River.

I encourage all interested to view the proposed route on the Keystone Web site: [www.transcanada.com/keystone/](http://www.transcanada.com/keystone/) and to voice your opinion to the PSC, soon.

Again, it is a very beneficial project that should be supported, but it is something that will be with us indefinitely, lets be sure it is done judiciously.

Buel Sonderland, Fargo 701-799-2646

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