

Before the Public Service Commission of
The State of North Dakota

In the Matter of the Application of
DAKOTA GASIFICATION COMPANY
Consolidated Certificate of Corridor Compatibility
and Route Permit for the
Dakota Carbon Pipeline Project

Case No. PU-21-150

July 6, 2021

Witness Claude O'Berry

1. Q. Mr. O'Berry, please give us your name, business address and your occupation?

A. My name is Claude O'Berry. I am the Pipeline Superintendent for Dakota Gasification Company (DGC). My work address is 420 County Road 26, Beulah, North Dakota.

2. Q. What is your employment history with DGC?

A. I have been employed in the Operations Department for 38 years, of that time, the last 25 years has been in a managerial capacity. During this time I supervised the commissioning and start-up of our 205 mile Carbon Dioxide pipeline and two SNG pipeline projects. I have held my current position as Pipeline Superintendent for the past 9 years.

3. Q. Please describe your responsibilities as Pipeline Superintendent?

A. I am responsible for the safe operation, maintenance and regulatory compliance of three pipelines, a 34 and 3.5 mile - SNG pipelines and a 205 mile carbon dioxide pipeline.

4. Q. Please describe the nature of your participation in the Dakota Carbon Pipeline project to date.

A. I am currently in an advisory role until the construction project is completed and the pipeline is ready for commissioning.

5. Q. Please describe your anticipated responsibilities with respect to the pipeline after construction has been completed.

- A. DGC will own and operate the pipeline; we will operate and maintain the pipeline according to 49 C.F.R. 195. DGC will be the keeper of the construction records which will include the hydro-test charts and weld x-ray films. Once the “as built” drawings are completed, we will enter the new line into the ND One-Call system. Before placing the line in service, it is our intent to run an MFL tool (smart pig) to establish an integrity baseline and also to provide us with GPS coordinates for all seam weld locations. This information will then be integrated into our electronic mapping system for future reference.
7. Q. Please describe DGC’s maintenance program for its pipelines.
- A. We inspect for leaks, erosion, right-of-way ground disturbance, and new construction 26 times a year (two-week intervals). Twice a year we lubricate and stroke all emergency valves to ensure proper operation. For corrosion control every three years we inspect aboveground piping and auxiliary equipment for atmospheric corrosion, annually a cathodic protection survey is completed for external corrosion control of underground piping. Every five years we will run a smart pig to evaluate the pipe integrity by inspecting for wall thickness, diameter flaws, and both internal and external corrosion.
8. Mr. O’Berry, do you have any information on the health risks to people in the vicinity of the pipeline?
- Asphyxiation from CO₂ or poisoning from hydrogen sulfide present in the CO₂ in the event of a significant release are the only known health risks.
9. Q. How are you mitigating that potential risk?
- A. The design includes a computer based leak detection system (LDS). Valves used to isolate the pipeline in the unlikely event of failure can be operated remotely from the DGC control room. Additionally, the pipeline will be continuously monitored from the same control room.

10. Q. Please describe DGC's pipeline emergency response and safety program?

A. DGC has prepared an emergency response plan to deal with the unlikely event of a pipeline emergency. DGC uses the nationally recognized Incident Command System, which is used by all emergency responders. The shift superintendent assumes the incident commander role with the Protection Services control center generally being the command center. We have a fully equipped ambulance, fire department, and HAZMAT response trailer. Our protection services staff are all trained EMT's and are capable to provide emergency first aid and medical transport. Our fire brigade teams are trained in industrial firefighting, high angle rope rescues and proficient to HAZMAT technician level. DGC has a reverse 911 system. We have entered the phone numbers of all residents and businesses within a one mile radius of our pipeline and broken it down in sections. In case of an emergency, the R911 will send out messages to all receptors according to section (25 calls at a time) with emergency information and instructions. This same system can also be used to call out off-duty plant employees if the emergency warrants it.

We are a member of the North Dakota Pipeline Association. This organization is comprised of pipeline operators in North Dakota that are dedicated to promoting pipeline safety by providing information for excavators, residents, businesses, emergency responders and public officials. I have staff members who actually host several of these meetings in towns near our pipeline. We also provide training of our Emergency Response Plan to the first responders located near our pipeline and facilities. The new pipeline will be introduced into our training and awareness programs within a year of operation.

11. Q. Are there any safety systems built into the pipeline design?
- A. A computer based leak detection system (LDS) will be installed. Valves used to isolate the pipeline in the unlikely event of failure can be operated remotely.
12. Q. Mr. O'Berry, will all aspects of the operation, maintenance, safety and emergency response relating to the pipeline comply with all Federal, State and local laws, rules and regulations?
- A. Yes
13. Q. Mr. O'Berry, does this conclude your testimony?
- A. Yes