

Board Certified Civil Practice Advocacy



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To: North Dakota Public Service
Commission Date: 3/6/2023
From: Former Mayors of Bismarck

Commissioners,

We the undersigned former Mayors of Bismarck, respectfully, are asking the Commission to consider requiring a relocation of the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline farther from the City of Bismarck. The current route through a rural residential area north and northeast of Bismarck is only a mile to mile and a half outside the City of Bismarck Extra Territorial Area (ETA). Our concern is the current location will impede future growth of the City of Bismarck.

Three schools, 1247 assigned 911 points, and 2162 tax parcels in Burleigh County are within two miles of the proposed pipeline. The concentration of these entities is highest north and northeast of Bismarck.

Part of our concerns relate to life-safety for the citizens being too close to the pipeline in the event of an accident. Much like the diversion dike in Fargo/Moorhead, the proposed Summit pipeline might confine future growth of Bismarck to the south of the proposed Summit pipeline. At a minimum, there is presently no fire station close to the proposed pipeline, nor any other emergency services, should a leak occur. Unlike other pipelines already in place in Bismarck, the Summit pipeline will transport dangerous carbon dioxide. Should a leak occur, the spread of carbon dioxide could affect a much larger area than other types of pipeline leaks, such as natural gas, thus posing greater danger to the public. In addition, the other existing pipelines are for the benefit of the public to provide utility services, as opposed to the Summit pipeline which is to benefit Summit, a private company. There will also likely be a 'no build' buffer adjacent to the pipeline.

It is our understanding Bismarck is the only metropolitan area on the entire 2000 mile pipeline that is affected. Bismarck is one of the fastest growing metros in the US and nearly all the historical growth and expected future growth is to the north and northeast of Bismarck.

A requirement to relocate the pipeline to sparsely populated areas north and northeast of Bismarck is appropriate. Our request is to require Summit Carbon Solutions to work with the Bismarck and Burleigh County Planning Commissions to find a more suitable route that will not impede the future growth and development of Bismarck.


Respectfully submitted,

W116
PU-22-391

Mayors:



Steve Bakken



John Warford



Marlon Haakinson