

CO2 Pipeline Project Concerns

Gaylynn Becker, Ph.D.

Bismarck, ND

Public Service Commission, you are faced with a decision of utmost importance.

Last night in preparing for today, I read through the 19 questions I asked you last year to carefully consider in making your decision regarding Summit Carbon Solutions CO2 pipeline request. I'm sure you don't want me to reread them – but I trust you've either already answered them sufficiently or are still in the process of considering those questions. I would like to think that perhaps the answers to those questions helped you say “No” to last year's decision to reject the CO2 pipeline request.

I read an article from “Duke Nicholas School of the Environment” titled “Leaks from CO2 Stored Deep Underground Could Contaminate Drinking Water.” Dated November 8, 2010. Here is some of what they found:

“Leaks from carbon dioxide injected deep underground to help fight climate change could bubble up into drinking water aquifers near the surface, driving up levels of contaminants in the water tenfold or more in some places, according to a study by Duke University scientists.

The study appears in the online edition of the journal Environmental Science & Technology, at <http://pubs.acs.org/doi/abs/10.1021/es102235w>.”

My second point is that I'd like to know how CO2 which has a specific gravity of approximately 1.53 ($=1.976/1.29$) can travel from the surface of the planet to high into the atmosphere to contribute to global warming or change. The CO2 from these ethanol plants instead flows outward along the ground and enhances plant growth. Taking this CO2 and storing it underground will contribute to less plant growth and consequently less food for human and animal use.

At best, “I hope you don't approve this potentially disastrous project of making North Dakota a national garbage dump of the nation.” Or worse, “Once the CO2 is underground it works its way upward either along cemented oil wells (plugged or operating) and it makes its way to underground water aquifers and the CO2 mixing with water to make carbonic acid. Thus, destroying fresh water sources for us at or near the surface.



4/22/2024

And at worst, we experience a pipeline break that would potentially be 4 times as bad as the Sartatia, Mississippi CO2 pipeline break and potentially kill thousands of people such as here in Bismarck, Mandan, etc..

I know that Summit Carbons Solutions representatives have said it's a safe pipeline. If they really believe that and if you as the Public Service Commission also believe that, then please put in the agreement that Summit Carbon Solutions and each of the executives of Summit Carbon Solutions will be responsible for any-and-all expenses for a CO2 leak for 100 years. If Summit Carbon Solutions doesn't want to be agree to this, then that tells me that they are not so sure of the leak or accident potential as they have stated.

Please keep in mind the safety of the citizens of North Dakota.

And once again, as you did once last year, "Turn down this CO2 pipeline reconsideration request!"

You made the right decision last year.

Thank you for your time.

God guide you in your decision-making process and bless each of you.

**Public Service Commission
State of North Dakota
Case No. PU-22-391**

Testimony of SuAnn Olson

**Landowner in the vicinity of the new proposed route North of Bismarck
April 22, 2024**

My name is SuAnn Olson and I am testifying before you on behalf of myself. My husband and I are landowners that will not be paid by Summit. Our residence is located about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile south of the new proposed route. For reference, we live between 188th Street and 175th Street. There are a number of landowners who are much closer to the proposed route than we are. Some will be just across the road from the pipeline and like us, will not be receiving payment from Summit even though our proximity to the pipeline has the potential to put our lives at risk and devastate our property values.

Concern for Safety

Safety has still not been adequately addressed. Mr. James Powell, COO of Summit Carbon Solutions states that safety meetings were held in the various counties. Surely that is not all that is required to obtain a permit. Questions remain. Who will pay for the specialized equipment that is needed to manage a CO2 emergency? How will rural counties adequately maintain training for their largely volunteer force? How will communities make sure residents know what to do? I hope shelter-in-place is not the extent of the safety plan.

500 feet from a residence is the setback being used. Is that safe? Burleigh County believes 500 feet is not enough to protect citizens. Is topography considered? The area north of Bismarck has many hills and valleys. Since CO2 will flow to the lowest elevations, do we know where those critical points are? Does the route avoid areas where a break would endanger more people living in low lying areas?

Concern for Property Values

The proposed route was moved to accommodate the concerns of various developers. A comment in the report submitted by attorneys on August 18th states that "the effects of the Project will be adequately minimized because the adjusted route is not located in the vicinity of any existing or know planned developments." Every parcel of land has an owner and a value. It is unjust to assert that a large block of land owned by a few developers is more important than land held by individual owners. Their message is that the route was moved to accommodate the important people, the small guys do not matter. If there is a break anywhere along the route, property values in the vicinity of the entire route will suffer. It is doubtful that buyers will think a 500-foot setback from the pipeline will be adequate then. For most of us, our residences are our biggest single asset. We have a lot to lose.

Concern for the Grid

In testimony already provided, Wade Boeshans, Executive Vice President of Summit Carbon Solutions, LLC, and Dan Pickering, who Summit has brought in as an expert on energy sector investing, state that CCUS projects require meaningful amounts of power. Mr. Boeshans notes that the estimated annual utility costs are expected to be over \$14.5M, supplying "income for the co-ops for continued maintenance and improvements to their facilities and infrastructure." This statement is made under the heading of how the pipeline benefits the energy industry. The first question that this statement raises for me is, oh no! Where is this power going to come from? The PSC itself has noted how tenuous the electrical grid is. If the grid cannot keep up with demand, whose power gets cut off first? Do the homes and businesses of people living in Emmons, Burleigh, Morton, Oliver, and Mercer go dark first? Will this create another energy debacle like the citizens of Northwestern North Dakota are experiencing with their electrical rates going up due to the electrical strain caused by a crypto mining center?

Finally

Summit is going to bring in nearly \$20B in tax credits alone. How big is a billion? Here is an example of just how big a billion is:

1 million seconds is about 11 ½ day. 1 billion seconds is nearly 32 years.

Summit and its promoters would have us believe that this pipeline is good for fossil fuels and agriculture. Any benefit these two industries receive is dwarfed by the benefit that will be enjoyed by the unknown owners of this pipeline.

Testimony of
District 29 State Senator Terry Wanzek
and
District 28 State Representative Michael Brandenburg

Presented by
Rep. Brandenburg

Monday, April 22, 2024

Case No. PU-22-391
SCS Carbon Transport LLC
Midwest Carbon Express CO2 Pipeline Project
Siting Application

Ballroom
Baymont Inn & Suites Mandan
2611 Old Red Trail N.W.
Mandan, North Dakota

April 22, 2024

Members of the North Dakota Public Service Commission:

My name is Mike Brandenburg. I am a corn farmer from Edgeley, N.D., and serve District 28 in the North Dakota House of Representatives. This statement is also from District 29 State Senator Terry Wanzek of Jamestown. Senator Wanzek is also a corn producer. He is out of state today.

We are farmers who come from multi-generational farming families. The Brandenburg family goes back to the early 1900s, and the Wanzek family goes back to 1885. With this rich agricultural history in our backgrounds, we understand the need to adapt and grow to meet market demands.

Senator Wanzek and I are presenting this testimony because we are very concerned about the future of North Dakota's corn producers and the plants that use corn to produce ethanol.

Two things will happen quickly if the Summit pipeline is not built in the near future.

1. Corn prices paid to farmers will drop and will slip below the break-even price. That means our state will lose farmers.
2. Ethanol sales will drastically decrease because ethanol produced to industry standards will be purchased from other ethanol-producing counties, such as Brazil. That means our largest customer, Canada, will have to go elsewhere for the quality of ethanol they require. The result will be the loss of ethanol plants in North Dakota and other ethanol-producing states.

Please consider these statistics:

- The ethanol industry's impact in our state is estimated at \$1.78 billion, according to North Dakota State University.
- North Dakota farmers sell 210 million bushels of corn annually to ethanol plants in the state that produce about 550 million gallons of ethanol per year.
- It is estimated that ethanol production in North Dakota has increased the price paid to farmers for their corn by 50 cents to a dollar per bushel.
- 90 percent of the ethanol, feed and corn oil produced in North Dakota is exported out of state.
- National and international buyers want the Carbon Intensity of ethanol lowered which means reducing carbon emissions. That is exactly what the Summit pipeline would enable the plants it serves to do.
- The Canadian Clean Fuel Standard went into effect July 1, 2023. It requires U.S. plants to continue to reduce the Carbon Intensity of ethanol sold into Canada. Canada is our country's single biggest export market, and they buy 400 to 500 million gallons of U.S. ethanol. We cannot afford to lose that market.
- Looking to the future, the single biggest market opportunity for low-carbon ethanol is Sustainable Aviation Fuel. The best opportunity for North Dakota ethanol plants to produce lower Carbon Intensity ethanol is carbon capture and storage—namely the Summit pipeline.
- If North Dakota ethanol plants cannot lower their product's Carbon Intensity, Brazil is ready to fill the demand. Brazil is the second largest ethanol-producing country in the world, second only to the U.S. Their ethanol already meets the carbon intensity standards the growing market demands.

Senator Wanzek and I respectfully request the Commission to approve the Summit pipeline for the benefit of North Dakota's farmers, ethanol plants, our state's overall economy and our future.

Thank you.

Rep Mike Brandenburg

Brandenburg, Michael D.

From: Wanzek, Terry M.
Sent: Sunday, April 21, 2024 9:35 PM
To: Brandenburg, Michael D.
Subject: Summit carbon capture project

To whom it may concern:

I wish to confirm my support and authority for Representative Michael Brandenburg to testify on my behalf. I am out of state at the moment and unable to be there to testify in person. Therefore, Rep. Brandenburg will be presenting testimony on my behalf that I've read and approve of as my testimony.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sen. Terry M Wanzek

District 29

ND State Senate

701-320-3303