

Testimony given by Mike Sibson at the PUC Meeting held in
Alexandria, SD.
June 25, 2007

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Greetings to the Public Utilities Commission

Mike Sibson

Address: 23782 426th Ave Howard SD 57349

Phone number (605) 772-5184

I live in Miner County, Roswell Township. The legal description SW2SW4, Section 28 and W2, Section 33, T106N R 57W is where TransCanada wants to put the pipeline thru our land. We are lifetime South Dakota residents. I have wanted to farm since I was 5 years old. My parents purchased this farm in 1972. I move there in 1977 and since then purchased the farm plus surrounding land. I raise grain and background feeder cattle. This is my HOME SECTION. I also allow a lot of wildlife to live on my land. I'm clearly stating that I am against the TransCanada Pipeline in this location.

It's ironic, that 20 years ago almost to the day and month. I was protecting and fighting for my land. The Super Conducting Super Collider was to be located near my farm. But, thanks to Texas—the project went there. Eminent domain was going to be implemented. Fair market for land was \$175.00 at that time.

Now, 20 years later we are facing the same nightmare. We are being offered fair market value on this land at \$2500. Or more. This is an example of what happened to land prices in 20 years. Where will the land price be in another 20 years? My land is not for Sale.

This pipeline affects more than just my wife and me. We have children and grandchildren. I work closely with my brother-in law

and his family. My parents help when they can. We all work together. We work hard.

As the proposed pipeline would enter my land it crosses native grass, farm ground, a wetland, native grass and ends up going thru a wetland and a waterway. The pipeline is within a ¼ mile of our farm. We plan to expand our cattle lots. Our children plan to return to the area. With their return we will need to diversify. Possible plans include new farmsteads with confinement cattle lots. The proposed pipeline could jeopardize future expansion plans.

My primary and secondary water sources could greatly be affected with the pipeline so close to our farm. With a feeder cattle operation water is very important. It's essential.

For summer grazing my cattle use dugouts as their only water source. In the event of an oil spill I could have 5 dugouts affected. I feel Transcanada needs to address this issue. Could I lose hundreds of cattle from drinking contaminated water?

The affected cropland is vital as we produce all the feed for our cattle. Decreased crop production is a big concern.

My local fuel dealer has many regulations to follow. Does Transcanada have to have a secondary containment on their pipeline in the event of a leak? My local dealer does.

We hear a lot about the tax money that will go to our local counties from the pipeline. But, is it enough? Is 6.4 million for the State of South Dakota enough? We will need plenty of money for updating roads and fire departments. Our local fire departments at this time do not have the adequate equipment to fight an oil spill or fire. Who is going to pick up the tab when our county runs out of money, the State or Federal government?

June 23, 2007 we received easement and right-of-way agreement papers from Tran Canada. How can the company get easements from landowners when the project is not approved yet? The land agent told us the answer it's a done deal and all land easements will be done by October /November. So, why are we all here to Testify-**when it's a done deal**? Does the PUC know what the land agent knows? We plan to contact an Attorney about the easement papers. Also, a copy will be sent to the Attorney General's office.

The easement agreement is very one sided. We feel the company could do a lot better. We do not want a perpetual easement. The company plans to make 26 million a day off our property. We feel, we are entitled to more than a one time payment. We have been told that other companies do offer yearly royalties to landowners. Why isn't Tran Canada?

As we just received our easement papers we have not had enough time to look thru them. We plan to submit written testimony on the company's liability and compensation plans.

I have a statement to all other affected landowners. I feel this company is not treating us fair. Especially, their lop-sided easement agreements. My plans are not to sign. We have to have an easement that is fair and balanced. We all need to stand together.

The testimony I have given comes from a lifetime tax paying South Dakota resident. I am God fearing, honest, hard working, family oriented, I care about others and their well-being. I love this land and plan to continue to protect and fight for it.

Economic development for Tran Canada is certain economic disaster for me and all other **South Dakota** affected landowners.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Sibson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Sibson" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Sibson