

10/19/98

Mr. Wayne Rickerd  
Project Manager  
Dakota Gasification Company  
Suite One 1600 East Interstate Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501-0561

Dear Mr. Rickerd:

This responds to your letter of July 14, 1998, to Ivan Huntoon about the construction of a carbon dioxide pipeline between Beulah, North Dakota, and Saskatchewan, Canada. You requested a finding under 49 CFR 195.260(e) that valves are not justified on each side of the crossing of the Little Missouri River by the Dakota Gasification Company pipeline.

Your request is supported by the poor accessibility of the crossing due to rough terrain, the lack of roads, and the lack of utilities in the area. In addition, you noted that the crossing is in a scenic area that might be degraded by placement of valves in the immediate vicinity of the pipeline river crossing. You suggest an alternative site for the river crossing valves approximately one mile south of the crossing and 3-1/2 miles north of the crossing.

You also furnished information concerning the low risk presented by the pipeline at this river crossing. This included the non-navigability of the river, six-foot pipe burial with rip-rap cover protection, the reduced pipe design factor used in the design of the pipeline crossing, the extra pipe wall thickness, the abrasion-resistant pipe coating, and the absence of any water pollution threat from carbon dioxide. Therefore, I find that the proposed alternative location of river crossing valves is acceptable and meets the requirements of 49 CFR 195.260(e).

If you have further questions, please contact Richard Huriaux, of my staff, at (202) 366-4565.

Sincerely,

Richard B. Felder  
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety  
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cc:  
DPS-1,2,10,Regions,TSI,StateMail