

County:

Contact:

Policy #12. Utilities and Pipelines

Problem/Reason:

Navigator CO2 Ventures is proposing to build a 1300-mile CO2 pipeline across South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Approximately 250 miles would be constructed across Illinois' rural farm landscape, requiring permanent easements from landowners. The pipeline would transport up to 15 million tons of CO2 annually to a site identified in Christian County, approximately 2 miles north of Taylorville, where it would be stored underground. The pipeline would serve 21 ethanol plants in Phase I, and up to 32 ethanol or fertilizer plants upon completion of Phase II. Counties that will be crossed by the pipeline include: Hancock, Adams, McDonough, Henry, Knox, Fulton, Schuyler, Brown, Pike, Scott, Morgan, Sangamon, and Christian.

After the completion of its investigation of a CO2 pipeline rupture near Satartia, Mississippi in February 2020, the Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced it was initiating a rule-making process for the purpose of improving oversight and safety for CO2 pipelines. That rupture caused the evacuation of 200 people and hospitalized 46. According to PHMSA, the anticipated date for completing its rulemaking process is October 2024. Until then, the Illinois Commerce Commission can approve applications for CO2 pipelines, and those pipelines will be constructed without the benefit of new safety measures and oversight, required to protect farmers, livestock, and residents from asphyxiation or long-term respiratory impacts in the event a CO2 pipeline ruptures.

What we want done:

IFB to support a moratorium on carbon dioxide pipelines that is tied to the completion of the Pipeline Hazardous Materials and Safety Administration's rulemaking process.

Resolution should be stated:

Policy #12. Utilities and Pipelines, page 13, line 15, add a new point #37 as follows:

(We support:)

37. A temporary moratorium on the approval of the construction and operation of any carbon dioxide pipeline until the Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) promulgates its revised federal safety standards for transportation of carbon dioxide, expected to be completed in October 2024.