



# Policy Update

**October 6, 2023**

**SDDOT Receives CRISI Program Funding for Sisseton Milbank Railroad Modernization Project**

The South Dakota Department of Transportation will receive approximately \$24 million in funding for the Sisseton Milbank Railroad (SMRR) modernization project. The project includes development, design, and construction for the replacement of 37 miles of the SMRR, including the rehabilitation of one bridge. South Dakota Farm Bureau supported SB 16 in the 2023 legislature that allocated \$6.25 million in general funds for the SMRR project. This legislation combined with the grant will be beneficial to South Dakota's farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers by moving wheat, corn, soybeans, fertilizers, and plastics, among other key commodities.

To learn more about the project, please click [here](#).

**Navigator CO2 Pipeline PUC Order Released**

The Public Utilities Commission recently released their written order that highlighted specific reasons for Navigator Pipeline's permit application denial. State law requires the applicant to meet four requirements. The four requirements are:

1. Will comply with all applicable laws and rules;
2. Will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social or economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area;
3. Will not substantially impair the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants; and
4. Will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of the governing bodies of affected local units of government.

Specific concerns included the following:

- Navigator's inability to comply with county ordinances;
- Economic damages to inhabitants for loss of housing eligibilities and other property values;
- Navigator's inability to provide an evaluation of alternative routes and the advantages of the proposed route over the other alternative routes; and
- Navigator's lack of supplying a higher quality plume modeling for, at the least, high consequence areas (HCA) and unusually sensitive areas (USA).

Navigator or any other party in the hearing has 30 days to apply for a rehearing or reconsideration. State law also allows parties to appeal the decision to the courts.

To read the order, please click [here](#).

### **Summit Drops Eminent Domain Lawsuits and Gevo Expresses Need for CO2 Pipeline**

The Brown County Commission recently heard from two key players in the proposed carbon dioxide pipeline. Summit Carbon Solutions and the proposed Gevo sustainable aviation fuel plant. The proposed aviation fuel plant near Lake Preston is estimated to cost \$850 million and the wind farm to power the plant is estimated to cost \$150 million. The total investment would be approximately \$1 billion. A representative from the company added that the plant will require 38 million bushels of corn/year and would produce approximately 65 million gallons of aviation jet fuel annually with 90 full-time employees.

Representatives from both companies told the Brown County Commission that Summit Carbon Solutions and Gevo are working together to accomplish the goal of reducing carbon emissions from ethanol plants. Gevo also told the commission about the necessity of the pipeline to construct the Lake Preston plant. If the pipeline is not constructed, the Gevo plant may be relocated. Additionally, in an earlier meeting, Summit Carbon Solutions told the County Commission that the company plans to drop 160 condemnation lawsuits filed against landowners across the state. All of this comes as Summit has announced its plans to reapply for its PUC permit.

### **Brand Board Announces District Supervisors for Brand Inspection Program**

The South Dakota Brand Board has announced a new supervisory model for its brand inspection program. Under the new model, district supervisors will oversee 122 brand inspectors in three west river districts. Producers are encouraged to contact their district supervisor if they have questions about brand inspections in their area.

A district supervisor area map, including contact information, is available [here](#).

### **Contact for Questions**

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