

Summit Pipeline: Counties Should Hire An Independent Inspector

Overview: Each county along the pipeline route is required to appoint a county inspector to ensure compliance with the agricultural land restoration plan approved by the Iowa Utilities Board. Summit Carbon, Navigator and Wolf have requested counties hire ISG, Inc however, we believe it is in the best interest of the County and landowners to hire an independent inspection company with no ties to Summit, Navigator or Wolf.

What does an inspector do?

The county inspector, appointed by the county board of supervisors and paid for by Summit, Navigator or Wolf, will ensure that the construction of the pipeline complies with the agricultural restoration plan and any agreements with landowners, and the county inspector will monitor each step of the construction process.

Why is it important to hire an independent inspector?

The inspector is who a landowner calls if they believe construction is harming their land, tile lines, soil, or anything else. If an inspection company, like ISG, is closely associated with Summit, Navigator or Wolf, it cannot be guaranteed that the inspector has the best interest of the landowner in mind when making decisions.

ISG and Summit Carbon Solutions are closely tied together:

It is very concerning that ISG and Summit Carbon Solutions seem to be in a very close business relationship. ISG lists Midwest Carbon Express on their business cards and landowners who attended Summit's informational meetings witnessed the ISG representative leave in the same car as the Summit representative. We have to question - who is ISG loyal to - Summit Carbon Solutions or the Landowners and Counties?

ISG has let landowners down during the Dakota Access pipeline construction:

At the request of Dakota Access, many counties hired ISG to be the inspector for the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. To this day, landowners still have damage to their land because tile lines were not hooked up properly and soil was mixed and compacted. Landowners complained that ISG did not do its job to make sure construction was done correctly, they just documented the problems as they were identified.

What we want:

We want counties to hire an independent inspector that truly represents the interests of the county and the landowners. Counties should not hire an inspection company recommended by the pipeline it's meant to inspect. We ask all County Boards of Supervisors to take bids like any other project, and select the best independent inspector possible.

What if our county already signed a letter of intent with ISG?

If the county supervisors have signed a Letter of Intent with ISG, it is not a contract and the county is free to withdraw its intent.

Resources:

If ISG was truly an independent inspection company, they would not list the Midwest Carbon Express on their business cards.



Des Moines Register Article:

"Iowa Landowners on pipeline work: 'They show no respect'", Kevin Hardy, November 5, 2016

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2016/11/05/iowa-landowners-on-dakota-access-pipeline-work-they-show-no-respect/92748562/>