



*Cedar County Emergency Management
exists to advance the preservation of life and
protection of property in the face of any hazard.*

December 6, 2022

Iowa Utilities Board
1375 E. Court Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

RE: HLP-2022-0002 (Wolf Carbon Solutions US LLC; Petition for a Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Permit)

The members of the Cedar County Emergency Management Commission are submitting this letter as formal notification to the Iowa Utilities Board as our vehement objection to the proposed Wolf Carbon Solutions Pipeline.

The Cedar County Emergency Management Commission is comprised of all mayors of incorporated jurisdictions in Cedar County (Bennett, Clarence, Durant, Lowden, Mechanicsville, Stanwood, Tipton and West Branch), a member of the Cedar County Board of Supervisors and the Cedar County Sheriff. It is the duty and the mission of this board to oversee, monitor and guide the local emergency management functions within Cedar County. It is our duty to plan for disasters (including both man-made and natural) that might affect our county, educate and prepare the public about the disasters that our county might face, respond to disasters when they occur, and mitigate disasters where opportunities are available.

Due to the inherent risks and the unknown dangers of this pipeline, our board is strongly opposed to the Iowa Utilities Board granting a permit for said pipeline. The risks to our residents far outweigh the benefits of these pipelines. While Cedar County is home to several pipelines, the fact that this pipeline will transfer liquid carbon dioxide (CO₂) is of extreme concern. Material data sheets for carbon dioxide tell us that this material is an asphyxiant with effects due to lack of oxygen. Simply put, lack of oxygen can kill humans, livestock, pets and wildlife. We also know that CO₂ "is also physiologically active, affecting circulation and breathing. Moderate concentrations may cause headache, drowsiness, dizziness, stinging of the nose and throat, excitation, rapid breathing and heart rate, excess salivation, vomiting, and unconsciousness"

<https://research.fiu.edu/documents/facilities/acf/documents/CarbonDioxideliquidCO2.pdf>

If a rupture or accident were to occur with a CO₂ pipeline, we are extremely concerned with the response time for emergency medical services to reach affected citizens. The National Institute of Health has stated that "brain cells are extremely sensitive to oxygen deprivation and can begin to die within five minutes after oxygen supply has been cut off." With that said, it is important to note that our local first responders do not have the necessary training or specialized equipment needed to respond to a CO₂ pipeline accident; in fact, our contracted and retained Hazardous Materials Team is approximately 45 minutes away. If a pipeline rupture were to occur, our residents do not have the time needed to safely evacuate the area. While a shelter-in-place order may buy our residents some time, it is very likely that even a resident who is sheltering-in-place would suffer long-lasting medical effects due to the lack of oxygen.

We are also concerned as Wolf Carbon Solutions has not considered any vulnerable populations, special needs populations or critical infrastructure that are located in their proposed Cedar County project corridor. These populations and the location of critical Cedar County infrastructure in the proposed corridor would significantly complicate response and recovery. It is disturbing that Wolf Carbon Solutions has made no attempt to identify these facets of our County.

With these points in mind, we urge the Iowa Utilities Board to deny the request for a permit for the Wolf Carbon Solutions pipeline.

Respectfully,

Jon Bell, Chairman
Cedar County Emergency Management Commission

Cc: Hon. Joseph Sparks – Mayor of Bennett, Iowa
Hon. Steve Bixler – Mayor of Clarence, Iowa
Hon. Scott Spengler – Mayor of Durant, Iowa
Hon. Jill Cinkovich – Mayor of Lowden, Iowa
Hon. Andrew Oberbreckling – Mayor of Mechanicsville, Iowa
Hon. Dustin McAtee – Mayor of Stanwood, Iowa
Hon. Bryan Carney – Mayor of Tipton, IA
Hon. Roger Laughlin – Mayor of West Branch, Iowa
Hon. Warren Wethington – Cedar County Sheriff