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### **Bridgeport Poised to be Site of Nebraska's Next Environmental Catastrophe**

Bridgeport Ethanol LLC is Nebraska's first ethanol plant to be under contract for Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) in the state. Despite ongoing safety concerns by federal regulators and organized opposition from affected landowners, Carbon America is pushing forward with their plans to have the Bridgeport CCS facility operational by 2024. At a time when Nebraska has barely begun cleanup of the AltEn disaster in Mead, and the agrochemical contamination levels in our soil and groundwater are at historic levels, we cannot carelessly add one more pollutant to the mix.

In May of this year the Legislature passed the Nebraska Geologic Storage of Carbon Dioxide Act, ending our reign as the only state without CCS regulation. The intent was to provide a legal and regulatory framework for the CCS industry in Nebraska, while laying a cleared path for ethanol producers to sell their value-added ethanol in Low Carbon Emission Standards markets, like the ones emerging in California and Washington. While all of that might sound nice, it comes with some hefty side effects like jeopardizing groundwater quality, and the forceable seizure of Nebraskan's private property. This legislation is a prop for the dying ethanol industry and a threat to the health of Nebraska's citizens, soils, waters, and air.

According to Stanford University researcher & Professor Mark Z. Jacobson, "Research finds that it [carbon capture] reduces only a small fraction of carbon emissions, and it usually increases air pollution." Nebraska already has a CO<sub>2</sub> emission rate that is more than double the national average, it is irresponsible to increase that amount.

Plans for CO<sub>2</sub> pipelines in Nebraska don't stop with the Bridgeport facility. Two additional CCS companies are currently seeking approval for separate pipelines that they would like to run

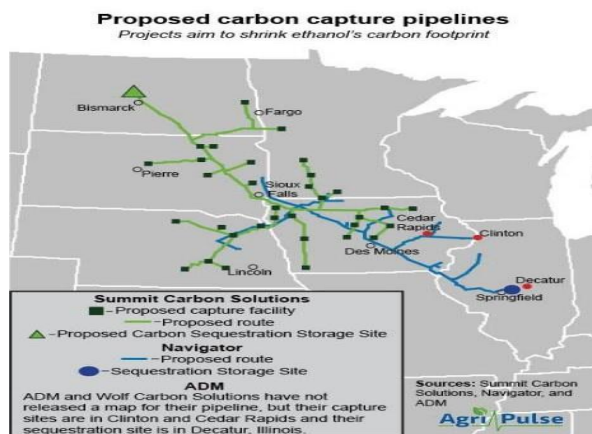
through Nebraska; both pipelines have plans to go under the Platte River. Navigator CO2 Ventures wants to run the Nebraska section of its pipeline from southern Nebraska, up through Albion and over to Illinois. Summit Carbon Solutions want Nebraska to be a part of their 5-state pipeline, which if successful, will be the largest Carbon Capture and Sequestration project on the planet.

Carbon Capture and Sequestration is not safe and it's no mystery what happens to communities when CO2 pipelines fail. We can read the stories and listen to the 911 calls as people beg their local emergency personnel to help, as they struggle to breathe and maintain consciousness.

Two years ago in the small Mississippi town of Sartartia, on a lazy Saturday evening while folks were fishing, camping, and spending time with their grandchildren, that they heard the boom. Then, a sound like a jet engine as 31,407 barrels of CO2 came rushing out the pipeline, and then came the thick, green gas. Reeking of rotten eggs and full of concentrated CO2 vapor, at one-and-a-half times the weight of air, the vapor quickly displaced the oxygen and began slowly choking out the people, animals, and cars in its path. The explosion led to the evacuation of 250 people from the area and sent 45 people to the hospital.

As a result of the disaster in Sartartia, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) announced that it has serious safety concerns about CO2 pipelines and is in the process of updating their safety standards for commercial CCS operations. Included in the update is a \$4 million grant for research, ensuring that the new standards will be implemented using the most up-to-date, scientifically based safety and control practices. This research takes time.

Overzealous developers want Nebraskans to believe that they are handing us the holy grail of green energy, the bridge to a future of green fossil fuels. They promise a reduced carbon footprint for ethanol, thousands of jobs, and safety across the board. If their main concern was truly our safety, they would be insistent that project development waits for the results of the PHMSA research; but safety is not their main concern. The developer's main concern is cashing in on the Inflation Reduction Act's tax credit that recently increased the carbon capture credit from \$50 to \$80/ton of carbon captured. There is not a tax credit big enough to make this a winning deal for Nebraska. Once again, it will be up to us as citizens to relentlessly demand the protection of our soils and water, because Nebraska simply cannot afford the burden of cleaning up another environmental disaster.



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