

The SDCEA, iand the people of south Durban demand that the provincial and national government:

1. Consider alternate pipeline route in full. There are many clear advantages to the North Durban route including minimizing the negative impact to previously disadvantage people.
2. Inform and hold Public meetings with all people who live in or near the pipeline route. Include full disclosure of all potential health and safety risks and resource use implications.
3. Reassess project's legitimacy. Investigate what investment in the alternative energy sector, energy efficiency measures and conservation practices could do to petroleum demands.
4. Consider the advantages of renovating the existing pipeline to save costs, minimize land damage, reduce liability and conserve resources.
5. Complete a full analysis of the pipeline's impact on the Durban harbor. Confirm that the capacity exists and analyze the impact on the harbor ecosystem and other industry including the current effort to reduce chemical concentrations in the area.
6. Consider the impacts to the transportation sector. Problems of unaffordable access, ineffective public transport, increasing private car dependence, and sub-optimal spatial planning will be exacerbated by the pipeline.
7. Prove quantitatively that this pipeline project is in keeping with the our commitments in the Kyoto protocol and South Africa's goals for emission reduction.

SDCEA and the people of South Durban demand that TRANSNET:

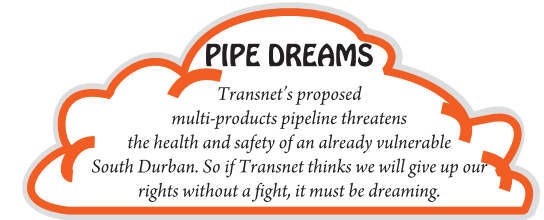
1. Immediately drop plans to run a pipeline of any kind through the south Durban corridor.
2. Create a CLEAR policy for compensation to those negatively impacted by thier pipelines for land use restriction, health effects, land degradation, etc. The project budget needs to include not only material and labor costs but also costs for long term clean-up and compensation to injured parties.
3. Perform a full carbon footprint analysis of the pipeline project, including the destruction of oxygen-releasing plant life, increased petroleum usage, etc.
4. Develop an effective leaks monitoring system that detects concentrations of contaminants in soil, water and air around the pipeline at multiple points. Current leak detection systems are based on changes in pressure or volume of incoming products and to not identify small leaks or show where they occur. People should not discover leaks/spills after they have already had time to cause damage.
5. Develop and advertise a process for clean-up/remediation for even small leaks should be in place and implemented as appropriate. COSTS SHOULD BE BORN BY THE POLLUTER, NOT THE VICTIM.
6. Analyze what improvements are required in the existing Transnet facilities and pipeline before this project is pursued. We cannot expect the new pipeline to be safe when existing structures are not up to par.
7. A large scale attempt to keep fossil fuels in the ground as a core environmental concern and in so doing design projects an developments that make use of and encourage renewable energy.

EVERYONE has a RIGHT to an environment that is not harmful to their HEALTH or well-being.

SA's Bill of Rights – Section 24a

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South Durban Community Environmental Alliance

Position Paper No. 4

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Our community is facing a dangerous threat that could affect the health, safety, and well-being of its inhabitants for years to come. Transnet is attempting to lay down a massive multi-products pipeline throughout South Durban from Island View to Eston. The stated purpose of this pipeline is to provide additional petroleum to the Gauteng region. However, the unfortunate reality is that it introduces far more problems than it aims to solve. We must immediately act to prevent this project from going through as planned by encouraging alternatives to be considered. If this fails, we must ensure that at every stage of the project steps are taken to minimize negative effects on those in the path of the pipeline.

Currently the project is in the beginning stages, but R1.1 Million has already been invested and Transnet will not easily be deterred from its goal. It is the responsibility of the DEAT to protect its people when they are at risk and to keep their interests in mind despite the appeal of big business interests. Transnet will not regulate itself; we need our community and our government to keep it in line.

Even at this early stage, Transnet has already ignored a number of important considerations in order to paint the pipeline project in a better light. They have misrepresented the area around the proposed pipeline path saying that there are no residents nearby. They ignored public participation requirements leaving many people oblivious to the possible presence of the pipeline or its impact on their lives, a clear violation of NEMA requirements. They failed to consider alternate routes in the Northern corridor although it is a better option in many regards, which interpret to be environmental racism. Most importantly, they have not proven the necessity of the pipeline in the face of changing energy needs. These oversights are a poor indication of Transnet's ability to properly manage a pipeline. If they fail so miserably in these beginning stages, how can we expect them to do better when the pipeline is actually installed? How can we expect them to protect the health and safety needs of those affected by their pipeline? What reasons do we have to allowing them to dig up the land, pollute the air and further stretch our precious resources? So far we are not convinced.

Why should Transnet be rewarded by being permitted to develop this massive pipeline which will inevitably do so much to further disadvantage the unfortunate people who lie in its path? They have not earned the right to further deprecate the environment around them based on their current practices. The manner in which all steps up to this point have been carried out creates a climate of mistrust. Transnet has withheld information, misrepresented the situation where convenient, and excluded potentially affected parties from stages which they should be an integral part of. The pipeline threatens people with potentially severe environmental safety and health problems, in a manner that is discriminatory along class and racial lines. The path of the pipeline is a veritable four of poor regions with black, Indian and Coloured residents.

The proposed route also passes through the harbor at Durban Bay, which is already at capacity and suffers from high pollution and contamination. The existing environmental strains would intensify as the ecosystem is further degraded and the concentration of dangerous chemicals is increased.

The justification for the installation of this pipeline is not valid. We cannot assume that petroleum demands will continue to grow at their current rate. Current usage is not sustainable and we should be focusing on alternative energies, conservation and efficiency measures. By increasing the supply of petroleum in Gauteng and South Africa, other problems will multiply. Issues of public transport, air emissions and contamination will also increase along with greater production at industrial facilities.

The pipeline promises to curb the influx of trucks on the roads. Given the increasing growth and development through demand, this is clearly another dream. Transnet must realize that this is not just a decision effecting us today but for many years to come. It symbolizes a commitment to oil and petroleum dependency for at least as long as the pipeline will remain in use.

The costs of the proposed pipeline are not related only to the financial aspect of installing and commissioning a replacement for an existing pipeline. The true costs lie in the disruption of people's lives, the alienation of land, the development of fragile and potentially productive ecosystems, as well as the impact on our environment – in immediate terms along the pipeline route and with respect to air quality, and over the longer-term with respect to climate change.

