



---

## FOIA Request - DC Public Service Commission

---

Climate Investigations Center <info@climateinvestigations.org>

Thu, Oct 7, 2021 at 2:18 PM

To: aparsons@psc.dc.gov

To whom it may concern,

This request focuses on the planning and safety of a nationwide high pressure carbon dioxide pipeline network spanning nearly every state.

We ask this question in light of [recent investigative reporting](#) on an accident in Mississippi where a large CO2 pipeline ruptured in February 2020, flooding a small town with a dense cloud of CO2 and injuring dozens of people, some of whom were found unconscious, trapped in their cars while trying to escape. Most residents were unaware of the danger prior to the incident or how to respond.

The development of carbon capture and storage has been prioritized at the Federal level since the late 2000s. Funding for CO2 pipelines by 2021 is part of multiple [bills before Congress](#).

Maps found within reports published by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) [Carbon Capture Program](#), [Princeton University](#), and non-profit organizations like the [Great Plains Institute](#), show a vast nationwide network of planned CO2 pipelines. Theoretically, the pipeline network would transport captured CO2 from existing pollution sources like power plants, oil and gas production and cement manufacturing, to sites in other states that have been identified for deep injection into geologic formations.

According to maps attached below the request, the District of Columbia is identified as having existing CO2 pollution sources and/or planned CO2 pipelines and disposal sites. These modeling exercises and maps have been developed for use in national CCS programs, budgeting and planning.

Maps attached are copied from these specific documents:

[Carbon Capture Coalition \(Great Plains Institute\), "Federal Policy Blueprint" February 2021, pg.16](#)  
[Princeton University, "Net Zero America", December 2020, page 243](#)

### Our FOIA/Public Records request in more detail:

I request copies of all communications, reports, notes, and discussions pertaining to the safety of carbon dioxide (CO2) pipelines that have been built or will be built within the District of Columbia as part of a national carbon capture and storage (CCS) plan being developed by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and it's [Carbon Capture Program](#).

Specifically, I request all communications about CO2 transport and disposal within the state of the District of Columbia between agencies (Transportation, DEQ, Health, PUC) and communications between any agency of the District of Columbia and any of the following Federal agencies or task forces, regarding CO2 transport and CO2 pipelines related to CCS

- Interagency Task Force on Carbon Capture and Storage
- Department of Energy

- Office of Fossil Energy
- Carbon Storage Program
- Department of Interior
  - Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM),
  - Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and
  - U.S. Geological Survey (USGS,
- Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)

I also request copies of any notes, communications, discussions including but not limited to the following topic areas:

#### Routing and Risks

- Any specific CO2 pipeline routes discussed within the District of Columbia
- Consideration of potential risks to communities or environmental justice concerns during route planning process
- Pipeline construction specifications - diameter, pressure, capacity of pipelines to be built
- Risk of leaks from CO2 pipelines
- Experiments or modelling of CO2 pipeline accidents
- Potential risk contamination of CO2 waste stream, including hydrogen sulfide and water.

#### Safety protocols

- Setbacks from populated areas - distance
- Warning systems for nearby communities
- Specialized CO2 training for first responders
- Availability of self-contained breathing apparatus for first responders
- Information and/or training for health care staff in treatment of hypercapnia (CO2 poisoning)

The time frame for this request is 2003 to the present.

CIC requests these records so that communities may have adequate information in order to protect themselves from the hazards posed by CO2 pipelines. The state's Public Records/Open Records/FOIA law is designed to ensure transparency and for that reason, agencies are to liberally interpret the law in favor of disclosure and to process records in a timely manner.

Disclosure of these records, especially for proposed pipelines, cannot reasonably present a danger to public safety and instead would provide a powerful tool for community input prior to construction. Additionally, to the extent your search results contain information that is legally exempt from disclosure, non-exempt material must be separated from those records to the extent feasible and provided in response to this request.

Because CIC requests this information for the public benefit and has no commercial interest in the material, I also request a waiver of fees. Should you decide to charge fees for providing copies of records in response to my request, please notify me. If practicable, provide copies of records in their native format. I request that you provide records in electronic form using the email address listed below. Please reach out to me with any questions or issues regarding this request.

Thank you for your assistance.

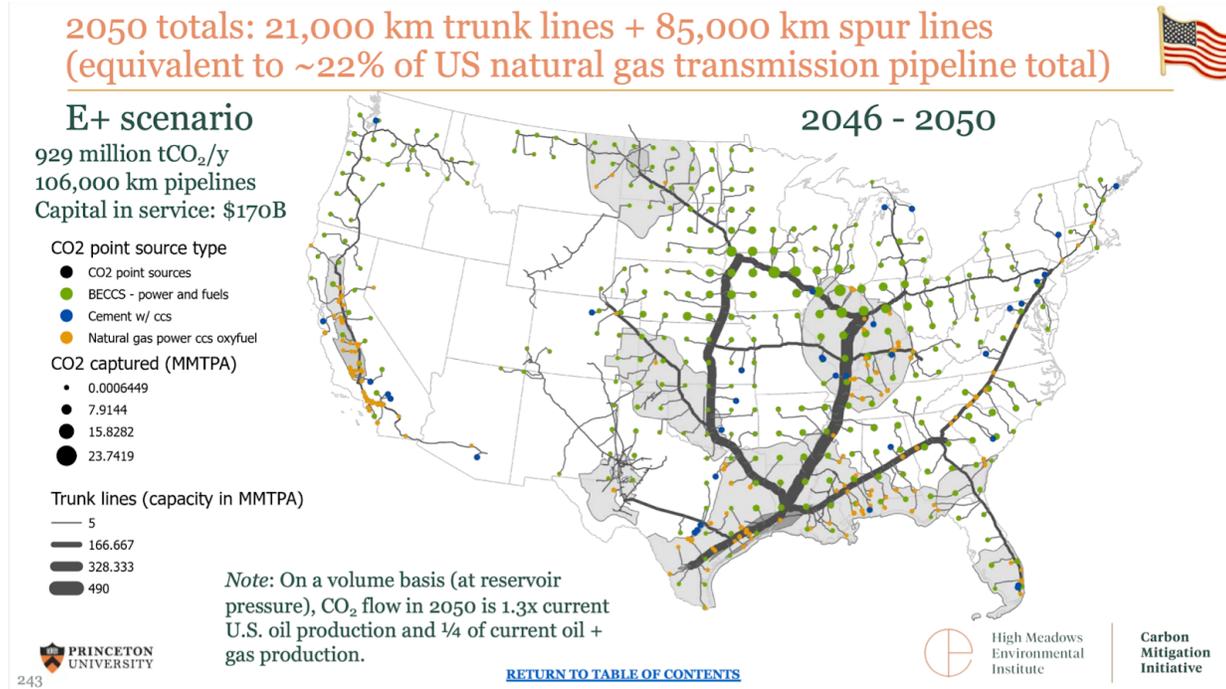
Daniel Zegart

Senior Investigator  
Climate Investigations Center  
[info@climateinvestigations.org](mailto:info@climateinvestigations.org)

&

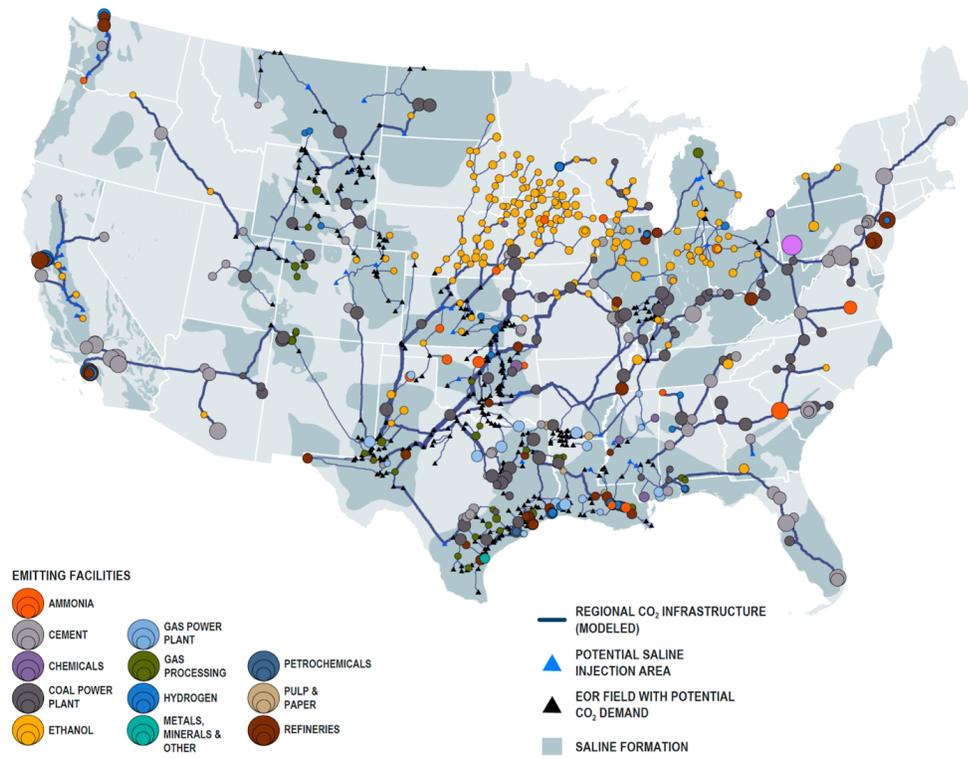
Kert Davies  
Director  
Climate Investigations Center  
[info@climateinvestigations.org](mailto:info@climateinvestigations.org)

Reference Maps:



[Princeton University, "Net Zero America", December 2020, page 243](#)

Figure 7: Optimized CO<sub>2</sub> Transport and Storage Network



Optimized CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage network deployment modeling from the [Great Plains Institute](#) finds that, under 45Q, a shared, interconnected CO<sub>2</sub> transport and storage system could capture, transport and store 300 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year by 2035 from industrial facilities and power plants.

[Carbon Capture Coalition \(Great Plains Institute\), "Federal Policy Blueprint", February 2021, pg.16](#)