# Iowa Utilities Board Approves Carbon Capture Pipeline Construction Amid Controversy



The Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) has approved a request by Summit Carbon Solutions to construct a carbon capture pipeline across Iowa, concluding a 2½-year review process. This pipeline will transport carbon dioxide from ethanol plants across the Midwest to a sequestration site in North Dakota. The project aims to begin construction in 2025 and become operational in 2026.

A controversial aspect of the IUB’s decision permits Summit to use eminent domain to acquire land from unwilling owners. The board scrutinized more than 90 eminent domain requests, denying only four and two valve placements.

The pipeline will span approximately 688 miles in Iowa, crossing counties such as Boone, Cerro Gordo, and Pottawattamie. Summit has secured voluntary easements with 75% of Iowa landowners on the route. However, the project cannot begin until additional permits are secured in South Dakota and North Dakota.

To address safety concerns, the IUB has mandated extensive safety measures, including X-ray inspections of welds, the use of thicker-walled pipes, and the provision of CO2 monitors for emergency vehicles. Summit must also secure a $100 million liability insurance policy before construction permits are issued.

Opponents, such as the Sierra Club and Food & Water Watch, have vowed to appeal the decision, criticizing the use of eminent domain and the potential risks to public safety. Summit has partnered with 57 ethanol plants and plans to reapply for necessary permits in North Dakota and South Dakota.