

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

March 25, 2025

Eric McCord Kinder Morgan, Inc.

Re: Kinder Morgan, Inc. (the "Company")

Incoming letter dated December 5, 2024

Dear Eric McCord:

This letter is in response to your correspondence concerning the shareholder proposal (the "Proposal") submitted to the Company by Chris Mueller (the "Proponent") for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials for its upcoming annual meeting of security holders.

There appears to be some basis for your view that the Company may exclude the Proposal under Rule 14a-8(f) because the Proponent did not comply with Rule 14a-8(b)(1)(i). As required by Rule 14a-8(f), the Company notified the Proponent of the problem, and the Proponent failed to correct it. Accordingly, we will not recommend enforcement action to the Commission if the Company omits the Proposal from its proxy materials in reliance on Rules 14a-8(b)(1)(i) and 14a-8(f).

Although the Company's deficiency notice complied with Rule 14a-8(f) by properly identifying the Proponent's eligibility problem, we continue to encourage companies to provide adequate detail in their deficiency notices about what shareholder proponents must do to remedy eligibility or procedural defects.

Copies of all of the correspondence on which this response is based will be made available on our website at https://www.sec.gov/corpfin/2024-2025-shareholder-proposals-no-action.

Sincerely,

Rule 14a-8 Review Team

cc: Chris Mueller



December 5, 2024

VIA ONLINE SHAREHOLDER PROPOSAL FORM

U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Division of Corporation Finance Office of Chief Counsel 100 F Street, NE Washington, DC 20549

Re: Kinder Morgan, Inc. – Exclusion of Shareholder Proposal Submitted by Chris Mueller

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is submitted by Kinder Morgan, Inc. ("KMI", "we", "us", "our" or the "Company") pursuant to Rule 14a-8(j) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (as amended, the "Exchange Act") to notify the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") of our intention to exclude from our proxy materials for our 2025 annual meeting of stockholders a stockholder proposal (the "Proposal") submitted by Chris Mueller (the "Proponent"). We also respectfully request confirmation that the Staff of the Division of Corporation Finance (the "Staff") will not recommend to the Commission that enforcement action be taken if we exclude the Proposal from our 2025 proxy materials in reliance on Rule 14a-8(b) and Rule 14a-8(f)(1).

In accordance with relevant Staff guidance, we are submitting this letter and its attachments to the Staff via the online Shareholder Proposal Form located on the Commission's website. In accordance with Rule 14a-8(j) and Staff Legal Bulletin No. 14D (November 7, 2008), a copy of this letter is also being e-mailed to the Proponent as notice of our intent to exclude the Proposal and of our reasons therefor. The mailing and e-mail addresses for the Proponent are set forth at the end of this letter. We also wish to inform the Proponent that if the Proponent submits additional correspondence to the Commission or the Staff with respect to the Proposal, a copy of that correspondence should be furnished concurrently to the Company, addressed to the undersigned, pursuant to Rule 14a-8(k).

We currently intend to file the definitive proxy materials for our 2025 annual meeting of stockholders (our "2025 Proxy Materials") with the Commission on or about April 4, 2025. Therefore, in accordance with Rule 14a-8(j), this letter is being filed with the Commission at least 80 calendar days before the date upon which we expect to file our 2025 Proxy Materials.

THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal states:

Kinder Morgan should allow our shareholders the option to hold their shares in certificated form by utilizing the "print on demand" service that Computershare offers called QuickCert.

A copy of the Proposal and Proponent's related supporting statements are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

BASIS FOR EXCLUSION

As discussed more fully below, the Company believes that the Proposal may be properly excluded from our 2025 Proxy Materials pursuant to Rule 14a-8(b) and Rule 14a-8(f)(1) because the Proponent has failed to demonstrate that he is eligible to submit the Proposal within the time period provided for in Rule 14a-8(f)(1).

ANALYSIS

The Proposal may be excluded under Rule 14a-8(b) and Rule 14a-8(f)(1) because the Proponent failed to provide proof of eligibility to submit the Proposal within the required time period.

a. Procedural Background

On October 18, 2024, the Proponent mailed the Proposal via certified mail to the Company. The Company received the Proposal on October 22, 2024. See Exhibit A. In the letter in which the Proposal is included, the Proponent asserts that he is an individual investor with a directly registered ownership position in the Company and that he intends to hold his position through the date of the Company's 2025 annual meeting; however, neither the Proposal nor any other correspondence included with the Proposal contained any evidence of the Proponent's ownership of Company stock. The Company therefore inspected its stock records to determine if the Proponent was a record holder of Company stock as alleged in the Proponent's letter and, if so, how many shares of Company stock he held. Based on the Company's review of the ownership records regarding the Proponent's direct ownership of Company stock, as provided by the Company's transfer agent, the Company determined that the Proponent held 2.023655 registered shares of Company stock on the date of mailing of his Proposal. A copy of this ownership record (the "Ownership Record") is attached hereto as Exhibit B. Based on the Ownership Record, the Company determined that the Proponent's registered holdings of Company stock did not satisfy the requirements of Rule 14a-8(b)(1).

After confirming that the Proponent (i) did not hold a sufficient number of shares of Company stock to satisfy the requirements of Rule 14a-8(b)(1) and (ii) did not provide evidence of stock ownership as required by Rule 14a-8(b)(2)(ii), the Company sent a notice of deficiency to the Proponent (the "*Deficiency Notice*"), attached hereto as <u>Exhibit C</u>, on October 31, 2024, by email and Federal Express, which was within 14 calendar days of the Company's receipt of the Proposal. The Deficiency Notice informed the Proponent of the insufficiency of his registered holdings of Company stock, informed the Proponent of his failure to provide evidence of sufficient

ownership of Company stock and explained how to cure this procedural deficiency. Specifically, in accordance with Staff Legal Bulletin No. 14L (Nov. 3, 2021) ("SLB 14L"), the Deficiency Notice advised the Proponent of the procedural deficiency, provided detailed information regarding the requirements of Rule 14a-8, and requested that the Proponent produce evidence of stock ownership as required by Rule 14a-8(b)(2).

On October 31, 2024, the Proponent, by e-mail, confirmed receipt of the Deficiency Notice, which e-mail is attached hereto as Exhibit D.

The Proponent's deadline for responding to the Deficiency Notice was November 14, 2024, which is 14 calendar days from October 31, 2024, the date on which the Proponent received the Deficiency Notice. As of the date of this letter, the Proponent has not responded to the deficiency noted in the Deficiency Notice. All additional correspondence between the Company and the Proponent from the date of the Deficiency Notice to the date of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit E.

b. The Proposal may be excluded under Rule 14a-8(b) and Rule 14a-8(f)(1) because the Proponent failed to produce evidence of ownership of the requisite amount of Company stock within the 14-day period provided to cure procedural deficiencies

Rule 14a-8(b)(1)(i) provides that, to be eligible to submit a stockholder proposal, a stockholder must have continuously held (A) at least \$2,000 in market value of the company's securities entitled to vote on the proposal for at least three years; or (B) at least \$15,000 in market value of the company's securities entitled to vote on the proposal for at least two years; or (C) at least \$25,000 in market value of the company's securities entitled to vote on the proposal for at least one year.

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8(b)(2)(ii)(A), if a proponent is not the registered holder of securities entitled to vote, the proponent must submit to the company a written statement from the record holder of such securities verifying that, at the time the proposal was submitted, the proponent held enough of the company's securities to satisfy the ownership threshold requirements of Rule 14a-8(b)(1). In this case, while the Proponent is in fact a registered holder of Company stock, his direct ownership is insufficient to satisfy the ownership threshold requirements of Rule 14a-8(b)(1). As a result, additional proof of the Proponent's stock ownership is required in order to demonstrate that the Proponent satisfies the ownership threshold requirements of Rule 14a-8(b)(1).

According to SLB 14L, to calculate whether a proponent satisfied the relevant ownership threshold, the proponent should determine whether, on any date within the 60 calendar days before the date the proponent submitted the proposal, the proponent's investment had a market value at the relevant threshold or greater. SLB 14L further provides that the market value is calculated by multiplying the number of securities the proponent continuously held for the relevant period by the highest selling price during the 60 calendar days before the proponent submitted the proposal. Under Rule 14a-8(f)(1), a company may exclude a stockholder proposal if the proponent fails to provide evidence that it satisfies the relevant ownership threshold.

For purposes of the Rule 14a-8(b)(1) calculation, it is important to note that a security's highest selling price is not necessarily the same as its highest closing price. During the 60 calendar days preceding and including October 18, 2024, the date the Proponent submitted the Proposal, the highest selling price for KMI's common stock was \$25.43 per share, which occurred on October 17, 2024. Based on the Ownership Record, the value of the Proponent's holdings in KMI for purposes of submitting the Proposal is \$50.71, which is below the \$2,000 ownership threshold set forth in Rule 14a-8(b)(1).

Rule 14a-8(f)(1) provides that a company may exclude a stockholder proposal if the proponent fails to produce evidence of eligibility under Rule 14a-8, provided that the company timely notifies the proponent of the problem, and the proponent fails to correct the deficiency within the required time period. Specifically, Rule 14a-8(f)(1) states that, once the company notifies the proponent of any procedural or eligibility deficiencies, the proponent's response "must be postmarked, or transmitted electronically, no later than 14 days from the date [the proponent] received the company's notification." As discussed above, the Company sent the Deficiency Notice by e-mail and Federal Express on October 31, 2024. See Exhibit C. The Proponent acknowledged receipt of the Deficiency Notice on October 31, 2024." See Exhibit D. The Proponent failed to cure the deficiency noted in the Deficiency Notice by the November 14, 2024 deadline for curing the deficiency. As of the date of this letter, the Proponent has not responded to the deficiency noted in the Deficiency Notice.

Here, the Company satisfied its obligation under Rule 14a-8 by transmitting to the Proponent, in a timely manner, the Deficiency Notice which identified the Proponent's specific procedural deficiency and provided detailed information on how to cure the deficiency. However, despite acknowledging receipt of the Deficiency Notice, the Proponent failed to cure the procedural deficiency within the time period specified in Rule 14a-8(f)(1). Accordingly, the Proposal may be excluded because the Proponent failed to demonstrate eligibility under Rule 14a-8 to submit the Proposal.

Furthermore, the Staff has consistently concurred in the exclusion of proposals under Rule 14a-8(f)(1) where the proponent has failed to provide satisfactory evidence of continuous ownership of the Company's securities, as required by Rule 14a-8(b). See e.g., *Culp Inc.* (avail. April 23, 2024); *Bank of America Corp.* (avail. Feb. 20, 2024) (in each case, concurring with the exclusion of a proposal where the proponent failed to timely provide proof of requisite stock ownership after receiving notice of such deficiency). Consistent with this cited precedent, the Proponent has failed to demonstrate his eligibility to submit a Rule 14a-8 proposal under Rule 14a-8(b)(1). Accordingly, the Company intends to exclude the Stockholder Proposal under Rule 14a-8(f)(1), because the Proponent has not demonstrated that he is eligible to submit the Stockholder Proposal under Rule 14a-8(b)(1).

CONCLUSION

As discussed above, the Proponent did not include with its Proposal sufficient evidence of his ownership of Company stock. The Proponent failed to cure this deficiency within 14 days after receipt of the Company's Deficiency Notice. Therefore, the Proposal may be excluded under Rule

14a-8(b) and Rule 14a-8(f)(1). We request the Staff's concurrence in our view or, alternatively, confirmation that the Staff will not recommend enforcement action to the Commission if the Company excludes the proposal.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, or desire further information or clarification prior to formally replying to our request, please contact me at 713-420-5164 or eric_mccord@kindermorgan.com. In the event the Staff is unable to provide the confirmation requested, we would appreciate the opportunity to arrange a conference call with you concerning these matters prior to the issuance of a Rule 14a-8 response.

When a written response to this letter becomes available, please e-mail the letter to me at eric mccord@kindermorgan.com.

Sincerely,

Eric McCord

RILS Mca

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and

Secretary

cc:

Bracewell LLP

711 Louisiana Street Suite 2300 Houston, Texas 77002 Attn: Troy L. Harder

Email: Troy.Harder@bracewell.com

Proponent

Chris Mueller

PII

EXHIBIT A

Proposal

October 18, 2024

Kinder Morgan 1001 Louisiana St., Suite 1000 Houston, TX 77002

Members of the board.

My name is Chris Mueller, and I would like to submit a shareholder proposal for the 2025 annual shareholder meeting. I am an individual investor with a directly registered ownership position in our company. I intend to hold my position through the date of the meeting, and I'm available to discuss my proposal with the board at any time.

My proposal: Kinder Morgan should allow our shareholders the option to hold their shares in certificated form by utilizing the "print on demand" service that Computershare offers called QuickCert.

<u>Hundreds of issuers use Computershare's QuickCert service including</u>: Tesla, Nvidia, Walmart, Yelp, MGM, United Airlines, Harley, Starbucks, Papa Johns, TopGolf, Citizens, Icahn, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Nasdaq, Hasbro, Cisco, Paypal, Foot Locker, Domino's, Wayfair, Colgate, Amex, PNC, Pepsico, Campbell's, Manitowoc, Warner Bros, BNY Mellon, K-Force, JetBlue, Carnival, AGNC, Nokia, Mattel, Funko.

Based on my own holdings, <u>MOST</u> issuers, that use Computershare as a transfer agent, continue to offer the option for certificated holdings. A majority of those issuers use QuickCert. The service is low cost, and the fee to the investor is \$25 per certificate.

Holding book-entry shares with the transfer agent already adds a layer of protection for the investor, however, there are still risks with holding <u>un</u>certificated shares. According to Computershare's FAQ, <u>book-entry</u> shares (enrolled in certain investment plans) are held by Computershare's nominee Dingo & Co. "A portion" of those shares are held "at DTC for operational efficiency". Computershare has not provided information regarding how they determine what portion of those shares are held at DTC, however, Computershare has stated that <u>certificated shares are not included in the aggregate total of DSPP shares held at DTC</u>. Allowing investors to certificate their shares enables investors to enroll in certain investment plans while eliminating the ability for Computershare to hold a portion of those shares at DTC.

It is also worth mentioning is that transfer agents are not immune to negligence nor cyber attacks. On 8/20/24, the SEC announced settled charges with Equiniti for failing to assure that client securities and funds were protected from cyber intrusions against theft or misuse. Personally, I was not able to log into dozens of accounts at AST for MONTHS in 2023. Without holding many of my securities in certificated form, I was limited in my ability to prove that I owned those shares during that time.

Although this added layer of protection may not be a priority to everyone, it is worth the additional \$25 investment to me personally. I encourage our company to take my proposal seriously. Issuers that <u>refuse</u> to offer the certificated holding option are denying our investors the ability to incorporate this extra layer of protection for their shares.

I would appreciate correspondence through email (if possible) to limit the resource expenditure necessary for responding to my proposal.

Thank you for your time,

Cl Mu

Chris Mueller

EXHIBIT B

Ownership Record



KINDER MORGAN INC

Date selected 10/18/2024 Document created 12/2/2024 11:23 AM

Holder

CHRIS MUELLER

Address

ID

Share Class	Register	Balance	
Grouped by: KMI (CUSIP 49456B101)	•		
CLASS P COMMON STOCK	Book Entry	2	
DSPP - COMMON STOCK	Plan Holdings	0.023655	
	Total	2.023655	

Market data for Publicly Traded Securities provided by Xignite Ltd.

EXHIBIT C

Deficiency Notice



October 31, 2024

Via Email and Federal Express

Chris Mueller
PII

Mr. Mueller:

We are in receipt of the attached letter from you regarding your proposed submission of a stockholder proposal for inclusion in Kinder Morgan, Inc.'s (NYSE: **KMI**) proxy statement for its 2025 annual meeting of stockholders (the "**Proposal**"), which Proposal was received by KMI via certified mail on October 22, 2024.

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8(b) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, you are required to demonstrate your eligibility to submit the Proposal by providing evidence that you have continuously held:

- (a) at least \$2,000 in market value of KMI's Class P Common Stock for at least three years;
- (b) at least \$15,000 in market value of KMI's Class P Common Stock for at least two years; or
- (c) at least \$25,000 in market value of KMI's Class P Common Stock for at least one year.

As of the date of this letter, we have not received the above referenced evidence of ownership.

You state in the Proposal that you have a directly registered ownership position in KMI. KMI's stock transfer records maintained by Computershare, KMI's transfer agent, indicate that your directly registered position is 2.023655 shares as of the date of this letter, having a market value well below each of the thresholds set forth in Rule 14a-8(b).

Pursuant to Rule 14a-8(f), you have 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of this letter to remedy the above-referenced procedural/eligibility deficiency by providing verification that your ownership of KMI's Class P Common Stock meets any of the thresholds set forth in Rule 14a-8(b). Such documentation can be submitted by mail to: Kinder Morgan, Inc., 1001 Louisiana Street, Suite 1000, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: Corporate Secretary, or by e-mail to: eric_mccord@kindermorgan.com.

If the above-referenced procedural/eligibility deficiency is not remedied within the 14-calendar day period referenced above, then, pursuant to Rule 14a-8(f), KMI is entitled to exclude the Proposal.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Eric McCord at (713) 420-5164.

Sincerely,

KINDER MORGAN, INC.

Eric McCord

Secretary

ATTACHMENT A PROPOSAL LETTER

(see attached)

October 18, 2024

Kinder Morgan 1001 Louisiana St., Suite 1000 Houston, TX 77002

Members of the board.

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My proposal: Kinder Morgan should allow our shareholders the option to hold their shares in certificated form by utilizing the "print on demand" service that Computershare offers called QuickCert.

<u>Hundreds of issuers use Computershare's QuickCert service including</u>: Tesla, Nvidia, Walmart, Yelp, MGM, United Airlines, Harley, Starbucks, Papa Johns, TopGolf, Citizens, Icahn, JP Morgan, Goldman Sachs, Nasdaq, Hasbro, Cisco, Paypal, Foot Locker, Domino's, Wayfair, Colgate, Amex, PNC, Persico, Campbell's, Manitowoc, Warner Bros, BNY Mellon, K-Force, JetBlue, Carnival, AGNC, Nokia, Mattel, Funko.

Based on my own holdings, <u>MOST</u> issuers, that use Computershare as a transfer agent, continue to offer the option for certificated holdings. A majority of those issuers use QuickCert. The service is low cost, and the fee to the investor is \$25 per certificate.

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It is also worth mentioning is that transfer agents are not immune to negligence nor cyber attacks. On 8/20/24, the SEC announced settled charges with Equiniti for failing to assure that client securities and funds were protected from cyber intrusions against theft or misuse. Personally, I was not able to log into dozens of accounts at AST for MONTHS in 2023. Without holding many of my securities in certificated form, I was limited in my ability to prove that I owned those shares during that time.

Although this added layer of protection may not be a priority to everyone, it is worth the additional \$25 investment to me personally. I encourage our company to take my proposal seriously. Issuers that <u>refuse</u> to offer the certificated holding option are denying our investors the ability to incorporate this extra layer of protection for their shares.

I would appreciate correspondence through email (if possible) to limit the resource expenditure necessary for responding to my proposal.

Thank you for your time,

IL Mu

Chris Mueller

EXHIBIT D

Confirmation of Receipt of Deficiency Notice

From: PII
To: McCord, Eri

Cc: <u>Teer, Angela</u>; <u>Hagy, Sarah</u>

Subject: Re: Deficiency Letter regarding Stockholder Proposal

Date: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:35:24 PM

[This email message was received from the Internet and came from outside of Kinder Morgan.]

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL: PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

Do not respond,	, click on links	or open	attachments	unless	you recog	inize the
sender or know	the content is	safe.				

Thank you Eric

On Thu, Oct 31, 2024 at 3:33 PM McCord, Eric < Eric McCord@kindermorgan.com > wrote:

Mr. Mueller,

Please see the attached deficiency letter regarding the stockholder proposal that we received from you on October 22nd. We look forward to your response.

I am sending a copy of this letter to you via FedEx. If acceptable to you, we can handle all future communications regarding the proposal via email to avoid unnecessary postage expenses, but please copy the rest of the Kinder Morgan team on this email on your replies to make sure that we see your emails.

Best Regards, Eric

Eric McCord

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Secretary

Kinder Morgan, Inc.

1001 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002

713-420-5164 (office)

713-206-4784 (mobile)

eric_mccord@kindermorgan.com

EXHIBIT E

Subsequent Correspondence

From: PII
To: McCord, Erio

Cc: <u>Teer, Angela</u>; <u>Hagy, Sarah</u>

Subject: Re: Deficiency Letter regarding Stockholder Proposal

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 3:04:37 PM

[This email message was received from the Internet and came from outside of Kinder Morgan.]

WARNING: EXTERNAL EMAIL: PROCEED WITH CAUTION.

Do not respond, click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender or know the content is safe.

Hi Eric,

Thank you for your email. I believe the one time setup fee to offer certificates is less than \$500. I believe it requires 2 signatures and can be done in less than a week. If you are willing to set that up, my concerns would be resolved, and I would be willing to withdraw my proposal. Please let me know if that sounds fair, and please reach out to our Computershare representative with any questions you may have about the QuickCert service.

Thank you again for taking my concerns seriously.

Chris Mueller

On Tue, Nov 19, 2024 at 1:59 PM McCord, Eric < Eric McCord@kindermorgan.com > wrote:

Mr. Mueller.

Please note that we did not receive a response from you curing the deficiency in your stockholder proposal, and we intend to exclude your proposal from the proxy statement for KMI's upcoming annual meeting.

Notwithstanding our intent to exclude your proposal, we would be interesting in hearing more about your request for KMI to consider offering physical certificates. To my knowledge, this is the first inquiry we have ever received on the topic. Please let me know if you would be available for a call later this week or early next week to discuss.

Finally, would you be willing to withdraw your proposal in order to save KMI the time and expense required to file a "no action" letter with the SEC relating to the exclusion? A simple reply

email stating "I withdraw the proposal" would suffice.
Please let us know at your earliest convenience.
Best Regards,
Eric
From: Chris Mueller PII

Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2024 2:35 PM

To: McCord, Eric < Eric McCord@kindermorgan.com

Cc: Teer, Angela < <u>Angela Teer@kindermorgan.com</u>>; Hagy, Sarah

<<u>Sarah Hagy@kindermorgan.com</u>>

Subject: Re: Deficiency Letter regarding Stockholder Proposal

[This email message was received from the Internet and came from outside of Kinder Morgan.]

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Best Regards, Eric

Eric McCord

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Secretary

Kinder Morgan, Inc.

1001 Louisiana Street

Houston, Texas 77002

713-420-5164 (office)

713-206-4784 (mobile)

eric mccord@kindermorgan.com