

Keystone XL 101

The Keystone XL pipeline is the latest proposed tar sands pipeline expansion by TransCanada. This pipeline could bring as much as 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) of costly and polluting crude oil from Alberta, Canada to the U.S. Gulf Coast. If approved by the Obama Administration, this pipeline will lock the United States into a dependence on hard-to-extract oil and generate a massive expansion of the destructive tar sands oil operations in Canada.

Keystone XL would undermine U.S. objectives to combat climate change.

- Greenhouse gas emissions from tar sands extraction and upgrading is four to five times more greenhouse gas intensive than conventional oil.
- Replacing conventional crude with tar sands from the Keystone XL pipeline would release an additional 27 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent annually.
- This would be the greenhouse gas equivalent of adding over 4 million passenger vehicles to the road, or constructing 4 new coal-fired power plants every year.

Keystone XL would pollute freshwater supplies in America's agricultural heartland and increase emissions in already-polluted communities.

- The diluted bitumen that Keystone XL would carry is a highly corrosive, acidic, and potentially unstable blend of thick raw bitumen and volatile natural gas liquid condensate that raises the risk of spills and damage to communities along the pipeline's path.
- The U.S. portion of TransCanada's first Keystone pipeline spilled over a dozen times in its first year of operation. A spill from the Keystone XL poses an even greater threat, given that the pipeline would run directly through the Ogallala aquifer, which supplies one-third of our nation's ground water used for irrigation, and drinking water to 2 million citizens.
- Keystone XL would increase emissions in refinery communities in the Gulf Coast, causing further health problems for citizens already bearing the brunt of this industry.

Keystone XL would promote oil dependency and harms U.S. security.

- Shifting U.S. imports from unfriendly to friendly nations like Canada would do nothing to address underlying problems caused by America's oil addiction. Continued reliance on oil empowers all countries that are major oil exporters.
- The Defense Department has said that our addiction to oil is a threat to our national security

Keystone XL would provide a route for Canadian oil to be shipped to international markets.

- Recent evidence suggests that the real purpose of the pipeline is to give tar sands producers access to international markets.
- In its Congressional testimony, TransCanada refused to support a condition that the oil on Keystone XL would be used in the United States.

Keystone XL would raise gas prices.

- TransCanada and their partners in the pipeline have admitted that one of the main goals of the project is to raise the price of gas in the Midwest—undermining economic growth and jobs creation throughout the region.
- TC estimates that its ability to manipulate supply with Keystone XL will allow it to charge an additional \$2 - \$4 billion per year from U.S. consumers.

Keystone XL's job benefits have been greatly exaggerated.

- The only independent study on Keystone XL's job impacts, produced by the Cornell Global Labor Institute, projected that Keystone XL would have a negative net impact on employment in the United States.
- Keystone XL proponents are using discredited estimates of the project's employment impacts that project that the pipeline will create jobs for dancers, choreographers and speech therapists along the pipeline's rural route.
- The State Department's own study shows that the pipeline's construction will require no more than 6,000 direct temporary jobs and TransCanada itself has said admitted that Keystone XL would require just a few hundred permanent jobs to operate and maintain.