

Talking Points on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) of the Keystone XL Project Permit Application

The State Department (DOS) has conducted a thorough analysis on the TransCanada Keystone XL Project permit application, in several instances going above and beyond the scope of the NEPA process.

- After more than 2 years of consideration and a coordinated review by more than a dozen agencies, “the information provided in this SDEIS does not alter the conclusions reached in the draft EIS regarding the need for and the potential impacts of the proposed Project”.
- Despite the extensive comments received, considered and components reassessed, “no new issues of substance emerged”.
- From a global perspective, the Project is not likely to result in incremental GHG emissions and there would be little, if any, difference in emissions associated with crude oil refining with or without the proposed Project.
- DOS acknowledges that this pipeline would be state of the art and “have a degree of safety over any other”. The Project would incorporate state-of-the-practice corrosion control methods based on current industry standards, current Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requirements, and the set of Project-specific Special Conditions developed by PHMSA and incorporated into the proposed Project plan which would likely reduce the potential for spill incidents associated with the proposed Project as compared to PHMSA’s incident data summaries.
- The Canadian crude oils to be shipped on the pipeline are characteristically similar to crudes currently refined in the US and shipped via pipeline. Crude oil specifications that limit water, solids, acidity, and other properties of transported crude are included in pipeline tariffs – crude not meeting those specifications will not be transported in the pipeline. Additionally, similar heavy crudes have been transported via pipeline for decades under existing regulations, which require operators to mitigate risk.
- A number of route alternatives were considered in the SDEIS, including alternatives that were developed to reduce the distance of the pipeline overlying the Sand Hills region of Nebraska and the Northern High Plains Aquifer system, which includes the Ogallala Aquifer. “The conclusions reached in the revised assessment of alternatives remain the same as those presented in the draft EIS.” [SDEIS, Section 4.0] The proposed route minimizes impacts compared to other routes.
- There are currently almost 21,000 miles of pipelines crossing Nebraska, which transport nearly every gallon of gasoline and diesel fuel in the state. Many of these pipelines and numerous oil wells in Western Nebraska are near the Ogallala Aquifer, where they have existed for decades without harmful impact. The advanced technology used by Keystone XL Pipeline will operate at an even higher level of environmental performance.



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- The Cushing Marketlink Project will add the appropriate interconnection and facilities to enable other pipelines to connect to Keystone XL to alleviate shipping constraints from Cushing to the Gulf Coast creating more options to supply the market.
- The Keystone XL Pipeline, which will increase the amount of Canadian oil coming into the U.S. – is projected to create 20,000 construction and manufacturing jobs here in America.
- Oil sands development in Canada will continue with or without approval of the pipeline by the State Department. Other countries are looking out for their energy futures. The U.S. needs to utilize this resource to enhance our energy security or other countries will.

Extensive analysis has been completed and concludes that the project should move forward. Support this vital project in order to enhance domestic energy security from Canada our largest trading partner and friendly, stable and North American neighbor.