

Keystone XL Fact Sheet

Key KXL points:

- Back in 2009, the Obama administration approved the Alberta Clipper pipeline, which crossed the Canadian border, in less than two years.
 - “Approval of the permit sends a positive economic signal, in a difficult economic period, about the future reliability and availability of a portion of United States’ energy imports, and in the immediate term, this shovel-ready project will provide construction jobs for workers in the United States.” (Sources DOS 2009)
- Since 2008, more than 10,000 miles of oil & natural gas pipeline have been built in the US; which is enough pipe to cross our country nearly four times.

Myth: *Keystone XL Doesn't Create Many Jobs*

- The Obama administration found that Keystone XL will support 42,100 American jobs during construction and put \$2 billion in workers’ pockets.
- TransCanada’s Gulf Coast Pipeline, which was the southern leg of Keystone XL, alone employed 4,844 workers.

Myth: *Keystone XL Creates Only Temporary Jobs*

- Every construction job is a temporary job – these are the kinds of jobs the economy depends on.
- Construction jobs are a key part of the president’s jobs plan and were essential to his stimulus package at the start of his administration.
- This country was built on temporary jobs. The Golden Gate Bridge was a temporary jobs project.
- President Obama has a temporary job, but that doesn’t make it less important.

Myth: *Keystone XL Will Just be an Export Pipeline*

- In its [Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#) the State Department confirmed *once again* that Keystone XL would not be an export pipeline.
 - FEIS: *Once WCSB crude oil arrives at the Gulf Coast, Gulf Coast refiners have a significant competitive advantage in processing it compared to foreign refiners because the foreign refiners would have to incur additional transportation charges to have the crude oil delivered from the Gulf Coast to their location.*
- DOE rebutted the argument that KXL would be an export pipeline in 2011, saying that without a surplus of heavy oil on the Gulf Coast – which is not the case today – “there would be no economic incentive to ship Canadian oil sands to Asia” from the Gulf Coast.
- President Obama says he wants to reach his exports goal so what is wrong with energy exports?

Myth: *Keystone XL will increase greenhouse gas emissions*

- Canada accounts for just 2% of global GHG emissions with oil sands accounting for a small fraction of global GHG emissions.
- Since 1990, GHG emissions associated with every barrel of oil sands crude produced have been reduced by 26%.
- In five separate assessments over six years of study, the State Department found that Keystone XL will have a negligible impact on the environment.

- Most recently International Energy Agency (IEA) chief economist Fatih Birol added to the debate [saying](#) the GHG contribution from Canadian oil sands “**is completely peanuts**. It is less than one day of CO2 emissions of China – less than one day, it’s a couple of hours.” Birol also noted that oil sands are a key element of energy security: “**We expect Canadian production will be a very important cornerstone of the security of global oil markets.**”

Myth: *Obama Can’t Approve Keystone XL Until the Nebraska Legal Issues Are Resolved*

- NE ruling has nothing to do with the substance of the pipeline. Obama has the legal authority to approve KXL today. There is no reason for the president to delay issuing the cross-border permit due to a state appellate court proceeding.
- Even the Washington Post editorial board said that President Obama’s Nebraska excuse was “[absurd](#).” As the Post [put it](#), “**This is yet another laughable reason to delay a project that the federal government has been scrutinizing for more than five years....**The administration’s latest decision is not responsible; **it is embarrassing.**”

Myth: *Oil Sands are the Dirtiest Oil on the Planet*

- IHS has debunked this claim on several occasions. In a recent report it [found](#) that oil sands are comparable to other crude oils refined in the U.S. For example, the GHG emissions of Venezuelan crude, the most likely alternative to oil sands, are in the same range as oil sands. In another report IHS [found](#) oil sands “are not the most intensive—nor are they as high carbon” of all crude oils.

Myth: *Oil sands are more corrosive than other crude oils and therefore more likely to spill*

- A [report](#) by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) found that diluted bitumen is no more corrosive than any other kind of crude oil and therefore not more likely to spill from a pipeline.

Myth: *Keystone XL poses a threat to aquifers*

- There are currently 20,000 miles of oil and hazardous materials pipeline under aquifer.
- TC has moved the route out of sensitive areas twice.
- Keystone XL will exceed those requirements PHMSA by adopting 59 extra safety measures.
- The State Department to declare that the project would “have a degree of safety over any other.”
- The State Department also pointed out in its 2013 assessment that it is highly unlikely that the pipeline would pose a threat to the Ogallala Aquifer
- James Goeke, who is viewed widely as one of the leading water experts in the United States [said](#), “A leak from the XL pipeline would pose a minimal risk to the aquifer as a whole.”