



THE PROPOSAL

The proposed 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline would transport up to 35 million gallons of oil every day from Canada's tar sands — one of the dirtiest energy sources in the world — to refineries in Texas. Much of it then would be exported to other countries.

The U.S. State Department is currently considering a proposal to build Keystone XL. It's likely that the ultimate decision will fall to President Obama later this year.

THE PROBLEMS

The Keystone XL pipeline would be an environmental disaster.

Forest Destruction: Producing oil from sand has devastating impacts on the environment, including the destruction of tens of thousands of acres of boreal forest in Alberta, pollution of hundreds of millions of gallons of water from the Athabasca River, and exploitation of a previously untapped and massive source of fossil fuels that climatologist Dr. James Hansen has dubbed “game over” for averting climate catastrophe.

Global Warming: Greenhouse gas emissions from tar-sands development are two times higher than those from conventional oil and gas operations. That's exactly the wrong direction for reversing global warming. Scientists tell us we must reduce our atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration to at most 350 parts per million. Today it's at 397 ppm. Keystone XL would certainly drive those levels up and perpetuate the cycle of global warming that promises to radically transform our planet.



Pipeline Spills: The fact is, pipelines spill. The State Department predicts Keystone XL could spill up to 100 times during its lifetime. An existing pipeline called Keystone 1 has already leaked 14 times since it started operating in June 2010, including one event that dumped 21,000 gallons of tar-sands crude. Other pipelines have also had massive spills in recent years, including one in the Kalamazoo River in 2010 that leaked 800,000 gallons. Most recently, a busted pipeline spewed 84,000 gallons of tar-sands oil in a residential area in Arkansas.

Endangered Wildlife: The pipeline would cross rivers, streams, wetlands and pristine wild areas that are home to at least 20 rare and endangered species, including whooping cranes, pallid sturgeons, interior least terns and piping plovers. A spill would devastate these species.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Keystone XL doesn't have to become a reality. But if we're going to stop it, we need your help. To find out more, please go to NoKeystone.org.