

Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Timeline



SEPTEMBER 19: TransCanada submits application to State Department for a Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline. The State Department commences the environmental review process.



FEBRUARY: Thousands of citizens, including many who live along the pipeline route, express to the State Department serious concerns about the proposal in public hearings and in written comments.



APRIL 16: State Department issues its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

JUNE 8: More than 250 businesses send a letter to Secretary of State Clinton raising concerns about the adequacy of the DEIS.

JUNE 23: 50 members of Congress find DEIS inadequate, and demand a full assessment of the project's greenhouse gas emissions.

JULY 6: Representative Henry Waxman declares building the pipeline “would be a step in the wrong direction” for the United States.

JULY 16: Environmental Protection Agency finds the State Department's DEIS to be inadequate, and asks the department to provide new analysis to address a wide range of issues including pipeline safety and greenhouse gas emissions.

JULY 25-26: A tar sands pipeline operated by Enbridge Inc. spilled around one million gallons of tar sands oil into the Kalamazoo River. Because tar sands oil is unlike conventional crude and more difficult to clean up, the river is still undergoing clean-up as of December 2012 and will likely never be fully cleaned up.

AUGUST 5: TransCanada announces it would no longer seek an exemption enabling them to operate the pipeline at higher pressure—a concern for tar sands pipelines. Through emails obtained by Friends of the Earth in 2011, we learn that days earlier the State Department was fully aware that TransCanada intended to request the exemption once public opposition died down.

OCTOBER 15: Secretary Clinton in a speech said she was “inclined” to approve the Keystone XL pipeline even as the State Department was in the midst of the environmental assessment process.

OCTOBER 29: 12 senators write Secretary Clinton expressing serious concerns about the adequacy of the environmental review, including the pipeline's impacts to clean air and water.

FEBRUARY 4: 86 organizations representing national, regional, and local groups from across the country representing millions of Americans call on President Obama to reject the pipeline.

MARCH 24: 25 mayors speak out against the pipeline warning about the expansion of high-carbon projects such as the Keystone XL project and the adequacy DEIS.



For more information, please contact:

Susan Casey-Lefkowitz
sclefkowitz@nrdc.org

Danielle Droitsch
ddroitsch@nrdc.org

www.nrdc.org/policy
www.facebook.com/nrdc.org
www.twitter.com/nrdc

Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Timeline



MARCH 31: More than 100 landowners from Montana to Texas write to President Obama and Secretary Clinton objecting to the pipeline, saying it would pose major risks to land and water in America's heartland.

APRIL 15: A Supplemental EIS is released by the State Department following significant flaws with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

JUNE 1: 34 members of Congress tell Secretary Clinton that the Supplemental EIS failed to address the inadequacies of the first EIS.

JUNE 3: U.S. Department of Transportation issues Corrective Action Order to TransCanada following more than 12 leaks from its existing Keystone tar sands pipeline in its first year of operation, including one spill that spewed 21,000 gallons of dirty fuel in North Dakota.

JUNE 7: U.S. EPA issues a comment letter critical of the Supplemental EIS, stating it was "environmentally objectionable" and provided insufficient information on the safety and environmental impacts of the pipeline.

JUNE 7: Leading up to the end of the public comment period, more than 265,000 citizens from throughout the U.S. submit comments to the State Department opposing the Keystone XL pipeline.

JULY 1: A pipeline operated by ExxonMobil spills more than 42,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River—in a similar part of the river as would be crossed by the Keystone XL pipeline.

JULY 15: Seven senators write to Secretary Clinton expressing concern about the risk of a pipeline spill as well as the proposed route of the pipeline through the Ogallala aquifer in Nebraska.

AUGUST 4: 20 scientists, including Dr. James Hansen, who heads up the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, write to President Obama, asking him to block the pipeline.

AUGUST 18: National Congress of American Indians issues a resolution to oppose the Keystone XL pipeline.

AUGUST 20: Over a two-week period, more than 1,000 people are arrested in a historic civil disobedience action at the White House urging the President Obama to deny a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

AUGUST 26: The State Department issues the Final Environmental Impact Statement, seeking public comments on it, and starts the National Interest Determination process (a special process for transboundary energy pipelines). Federal and state agencies have until November 25 to provide input.

AUGUST 31: Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman joins U.S. Senators Mike Johanns and Ben Nelson in opposing the proposed route of the pipeline through the Ogallala Aquifer and asks the State Department to reject the pipeline proposal.

SEPTEMBER 7: Nine Nobel Peace Prize laureates, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, write to President Obama to reject the pipeline.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER: Thousands of citizens flood State Department hearings to oppose the pipeline along the proposed pipeline route as well as in Washington, D.C., including ranchers from Nebraska, a retired brigadier general, Mayor Jennifer Hosterman from Pleasanton, Calif., and Mike Klink, whistle-blower former pipeline safety inspector.

SEPTEMBER 22: *The Washington Post* reports that TransCanada had sought special access to Secretary Clinton through its lobbyist for the pipeline, Paul Elliott, who had served as national deputy campaign manager for Hillary Clinton's presidential bid in 2008. The story also revealed bias within the State Department favoring the pipeline.



Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Timeline



OCTOBER 4: The National Farmer's Union announces the Keystone XL is not in the national interest and urges the Department of State to deny issuance of the Presidential Permit.

OCTOBER 6: More than 200 business leaders write to President Obama, calling on him to reject the pipeline.

OCTOBER 7: *The New York Times* reports that the State Department had allowed TransCanada to solicit and screen bids for the development of the EIS. In a major conflict of interest, TransCanada selected Cardno Entrix, who already listed TransCanada as a major client.

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER: President Obama and Vice President Biden are greeted by hundreds of Keystone XL protesters in such cities as Richmond, Virginia; Portland Oregon; Columbus, Ohio; Boston; Cincinnati; Seattle; Denver; Raleigh; Pittsburgh; St. Louis; New York City; and San Francisco.

NOVEMBER 6: Thousands of citizens from across the United States join together in Washington D.C. to encircle the White House in sending a message to President Obama to stand for a healthy climate by rejecting the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline.

NOVEMBER 10: President Obama and the State Department announce that the decision for Keystone XL will not occur until 2013—an 18-month delay—citing the need to assess alternative routes in Nebraska and environmental concerns including climate change.

NOVEMBER 16: More than 100 U.S. mayors send a letter to President Obama expressing concerns about the impacts to communities of the Keystone XL pipeline. These mayors are from 28 states, 10 state capitals, and serve a combined population of over 9 million Americans.

DECEMBER 23: The House of Representatives passes payroll tax extension legislation that contains an unrelated provision to force President Obama to make a decision on Keystone XL by February 21, 2012.



JANUARY 18: The Obama Administration stands up to Big Oil and denies the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

FEBRUARY 13: While the federal transportation bill is being considered in Congress, a group of senators files an amendment that authorizes construction of the pipeline.

FEBRUARY 13 AND 14: The response to the amendment attempting to force approval of the pipeline is fast and fierce: more than 800,000 comments are sent to the Senate expressing opposition to the pipeline in a 24-hour period. Additionally, a group of 15 climate scientists write to Congressional leadership to express their concerns about tar sands and the Keystone XL pipeline.

MARCH 8: The amendment to approve Keystone XL in the transportation bill is defeated in the U.S. Senate.

MARCH 22: President Obama visits Cushing, Oklahoma and announces his support for the southern segment of the pipeline, while still committing to a rigorous review of the northern segment.

MAY 4: TransCanada submits a new application to the State Department for the northern Segment of its Keystone XL pipeline that would run from the Canadian border to Steele City, Nebraska.

JUNE 13: The State Department issues a notice of intent to prepare a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for Keystone XL and hold a 45-day public comment period on the scope of the environmental review from June 15 to July 30.

Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline Timeline



JUNE 18: In a period of 24 hours during the Rio+20 Earth Summit, more than 100,000 messages are shared during the Twitterstorm to #Endfossilfuelsubsidies to eliminate the trillion dollars of subsidies that are provided to fossil fuel companies worldwide annually. Participants in the Twitterstorm included Robert Redford, Mark Ruffalo, Senator Bernie Sanders, Representatives Ed Markey and Nancy Pelosi, and many more.

JUNE 29: Despite further efforts of some in Congress to force a legislative approval of Keystone XL by attaching an amendment to the transportation bill, the transportation bill passes in Conference without an amendment to approve the pipeline.

JULY 25: On this date in 2010, an Enbridge tar sands pipeline ruptured and spilled 1 million gallons of tar sands into Michigan's Kalamazoo River. More than two dozen events around the United States and Canada commemorate the tragic anniversary and call attention to the risks of tar sands pipelines.

JULY 30: The scoping period for the environmental review of the pipeline ends. Climate scientists and people across the country urge the State Department to consider the climate impacts of developing the tar sands in the environmental review for Keystone XL.

AUGUST 9: TransCanada crews begin construction of the Keystone XL southern segment in Texas but continue to face major opposition from landowners. Protests by landowners against the construction of the pipeline in Texas have been ongoing.

OCTOBER 30: The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) publishes a draft evaluation report of TransCanada's proposed route through Nebraska, which still would threaten sandy soils and areas of the Ogallala Aquifer that come close to the ground surface.

NOVEMBER 18: Thousands rally against the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline in Washington, D.C., marching around the White House and calling on President Obama to reject the pipeline as a critical piece of his commitment to tackling climate change in his second term.

DECEMBER 4: More than 1,000 Nebraskans write to the Nebraska DEQ calling on Governor Heineman and the DEQ to reject the proposed Keystone XL pipeline route and more than 800 people turn out to a Nebraska hearing about the pipeline route.

