

# Proposed Keystone XL Pipeline: A Wrong Move

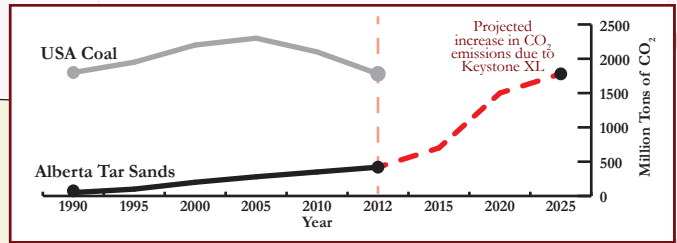
TransCanada, the largest oil company in Canada, plans to build a pipeline from Alberta, Canada to Houston, Texas. This 2,000 mile pipeline, known as Keystone XL, provides a more-efficient route than the current system, but will carry tar sands - arguably the world's dirtiest fuel. Along its route from Alberta to Texas, this pipeline could devastate ecosystems, pollute water sources, and ultimately jeopardize public health.

Since the proposed pipeline would cross the Canada-U.S. border, TransCanada requires the granting of a presidential permit from the Obama Administration. This permit is still being developed, giving us time to halt this potential disastrous project.

**We cannot allow the construction of Keystone XL if we are to create a livable environment for our future children.**

## Significant Climate Impact

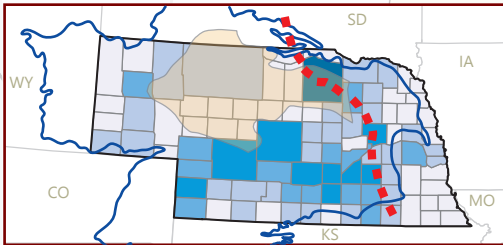
- If the Keystone XL Pipeline is approved, the total climate impact of the tar sands in 2025 would rival that from the total number of coal-fired power plants in the United States today<sup>1</sup>
- Due to the Keystone XL, the Alberta tar sands industry has announced plans to **quadruple their carbon extraction capacity by 2025**<sup>2</sup>
- Extraction of tar sands for the Keystone XL would increase carbon emissions by **24.4 million metric tons per year**<sup>3</sup>



## Nebraska: A Future of Risk<sup>4</sup>

The **Nebraska Sandhills** is one of the most fragile ecosystems in the U.S. Consisting of permeable layers of sand, gravel and rock, contamination from the Keystone XL would seep directly into the underlying Ogallala Aquifer - contaminating the Aquifer and harming **30% of the nation's irrigated agriculture**.

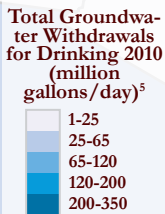
The topography beneath the Sandhills is relatively steep, speeding up the spread of contaminants through the aquifer during a spill.



The **Ogallala Aquifer** is particularly important to Nebraskans. It provides **78%** of the water used by residents and industry and **83%** of the state's irrigation water.

Nebraska's farming industry contributed **\$15 billion** to the state economy in 2009, worth **18 percent** of Nebraska's gross domestic product for that year.

There is a risk of **91 spills** over 50 years - **risking the way of life for Nebraskans**.



1. Szafrage, Barry. "Tar Secrets." Vancouver Observer. Observer Media Group, 1 Jan. 2014. Web.  
 2. Millington, Debra, and Carlos Manlio. Canadian Oil Sands Supply Costs and Development Projects. Calgary: Canadian Energy Research Institute, 2013. Print.  
 3. "Climate Impacts of the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline." Natural Resources Defense Council, NRD/C, 1 Oct. 2013. Web.  
 4. Song, Lisa. "Keystone XL Permit: How the Pipeline's Route Could Impact the Ogallala Aquifer." Inside Climate News. Inside Climate News, 11 Aug. 2013. Web.  
 5. Changshuh data downloaded from: "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2010." United States Geological Survey, USGS. Web. <http://water.usgs.gov/watuse/data/2010/index.html>.