

Keystone XL Pipeline: A Brief Summary for Texans, by Texans

- TransCanada is a foreign company wanting to pump foreign tar sands through pipes manufactured in India. TransCanada does not represent or care about Texas and Texans.
- The U.S. State Department is responsible for deciding whether to issue a presidential permit to authorize the crossing of the Canada/US border. State Dept. issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2010¹ rated Category 3-Inadequate by EPA² and will issue a Supplemental EIS in April 2011¹.
- TransCanada received common carrier status in 2008 from the TX Railroad Commission³ and has since been threatening landowners with eminent domain despite not having all the necessary permits. Many landowners were bullied in to signing easement agreements before knowing all the facts, and are now speaking out in hopes of protecting their land and safety.⁴
- China has invested significantly in tar sands⁵ and there is no guarantee this oil will stay in the US, as it will be an “international commodity.”⁶
- Proposed pipeline specs: 36" diameter, .465" thick, 1440 psi, 4' underground¹, 140°F temperature⁷, carrying tar sands-- more acidic and corrosive than regular crude, containing high amounts of quartz.⁸
- Proposed route crosses 6 large Texas rivers and many aquifers, including the Carrizo-Wilcox.¹
- Similar pipelines in Canada leak at 16 times more per mile due to internal corrosion; a similar pipeline in Michigan spilled 840,000 gallons of tar sands into the Kalamazoo river⁸, and TransCanada's only other tar sands line, Keystone I, has leaked 7 times in 10 months of operation.⁹ This would be the first tar sands pipeline in Texas.
- Texas first responders don't have proper training or equipment to respond to a leak of this sort; an emergency response plan has yet to be released.
- The pipeline would contain hydrogen sulfide at concentrations certain to cause negative health effects upon a leak with the potential for fatalities.⁸
- Populations near Gulf Coast refineries where the product would be refined would face even higher rates of asthma and cancer due to exacerbated air quality.¹⁰
- Tar sands is heavier than water, having an API gravity of 7.7-9, making clean up difficult.⁸
- The proposed route crosses numerous faults in southwestern Rusk County, which are likely active, and in the immediate vicinity of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer's sensitive outcrop. The probability of an already likely spill is increased by crossing this fault zone.¹¹
- Landowners and concerned citizens are asking YOU to get involved in protecting Texans from this dangerous project.

Inquiries? Contact Brittany Dawn McAllister, bdmcallister@stoptarsands.org, 409.550.7961

1. <http://www.keystonepipeline-xl.state.gov/clientsite/keystonexl.nsf?Open>
2. [http://yosemite.epa.gov/oeca/webeis.nsf/\(PDFView\)/20100126/\\$file/20100126.PDF](http://yosemite.epa.gov/oeca/webeis.nsf/(PDFView)/20100126/$file/20100126.PDF)
3. http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/data/operators/active_operators.pdf (Permit 7873)
4. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/business/Canadian+pipeline+fuels+anger+landowner/4036869/story.html>
5. <http://www.vincewadeusa.com/?p=293>
6. In quotes, from U.S. Dept. of State, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Daniel Clune
7. <http://tarsandspipelines.wordpress.com/2010/10/19/no-good-news-for-keystone-xl/>
8. <http://dirtyoilsands.org/files/tarsandssafetyrisks.pdf>
9. <http://tarsandspipelines.wordpress.com/2011/01/15/another-day-another-keystone-pipeline-spill/>
10. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/eshope/tar_sands_putting_our_waters_i.html
11. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IU0mqT5ar1GUqyDEcw3SxuU1ee9BUA1KCiJrVMPHEqc/edit?hl=en&authkey=CO3qyeYB>

