



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 7, 2014

AOPL TO STATE: KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE IN NATIONAL INTEREST

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, the Association of Oil Pipe Lines (AOPL) released this statement on the comments it submitted to the U.S. Department of State in support of a National Interest Determination for the Keystone XL pipeline project.

“The Keystone XL pipeline, as confirmed by the State Department’s own environmental, safety and economic impact analysis, is clearly in the national interest of the United States,” said Andy Black, AOPL President and CEO.

AOPL comments noted how State’s recently completed environmental impact review found:

- Building the Keystone XL pipeline will not contribute significantly to global climate change
- Building Keystone XL is the best option for limiting greenhouse gas emissions
- Building Keystone XL is the best option for limiting crude oil release to the environment
- Building Keystone XL will help save lives and prevent injury

In a June 25, 2013, speech at Georgetown University, President Obama said he would allow the Keystone XL pipeline to be built, “only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution. The net effects of the pipeline’s impact on our climate will be absolutely critical to determining whether this project is allowed to go forward.” On January 31, 2014, the State Department’s Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement determined that “approval or denial of any one crude oil transport project, including the proposed Project, is unlikely to significantly impact the rate of extraction in the oil sands or continued demand for heavy crude oil at refineries in the United States.” (pg. ES-16) Relatedly, “climate conditions during construction of Keystone XL would not differ substantially from current conditions,” and “expected climate changes are anticipated to occur regardless of any potential effects from the proposed project.” (pg. ES-17)

Furthermore, State analyzed the impacts of building Keystone XL compared to the No Action alternative of denying the Presidential Permit and seeing that crude oil go to market by other transportation modes. State’s review established that not building the Keystone XL pipeline would result in 27.8% to 41.8% more greenhouse gas emissions than building Keystone XL. (pg. ES-34) Denying the Keystone XL Presidential Permit would result in the additional release of between 867,613 and 1,305,043 metric tons of CO2 equivalents compared to approving Keystone XL. (pg. ES-34)

The State Department review of other alternative transportation modes determined that not building the Keystone XL pipeline would result in 2.4 to 9.0 times more crude oil released to the environment each year. (pg. ES-36) Denying the Keystone XL Presidential Permit would result in the additional release of between 29,778 and 172,830 gallons of crude oil to the environment. (pg. ES-36)

The environmental and safety benefits of approving Keystone XL reflect the inherent safety of pipelines. In 2012, 99.999 percent of crude oil and petroleum products delivered by pipeline reached their destination safely. This is a natural outcome of the major financial investment pipeline operators make in pipeline safety each year. In 2012, pipeline operators spent at least \$1.6 billion on pipeline integrity management evaluating, inspecting and maintaining their pipelines. The result is that over the last decade, liquid pipeline incidents are down over 60 percent and volumes released from pipelines are down over 40 percent. Find more at: <http://aopl.org/safety/safety-excellence-program/>.