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Northern Plains Resource Council

NOTE: More information available at www.northernplains.org

PRESIDENT REJECTS KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE

Today, President Obama and the State Department announced they will reject the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.

This decision reflects the need for an additional supplemental Final Environmental Impact Statement that would study many of the remaining unanswered questions about the Keystone XL pipeline. The President had announced that he and the State Department would need until the first quarter of 2013 to adequately review public safety and environmental impacts from the project. A Presidential Permit is needed because the privately owned pipeline would cross the U.S. border. Congress passed legislation that would have forced Obama to make a premature decision on the pipeline by Feb. 21.

“I’m glad to hear that the President stood with landowners who knew that the impacts on our state from this pipeline have not been adequately analyzed,” said Sandy Barnick, landowner crossed by the proposed pipeline and member of the Northern Plains Pipeline Landowners Group. “The President stood on the side of the people, as opposed to foreign corporations, today. I hope this decision sets a precedent that the impacts from a project must be determined before approval.”

The public and members of the Northern Plains Pipeline Landowners Group along the Keystone XL pipeline are still waiting for:

- An Emergency Response Plan;
- A study of the corrosiveness of tar sands oil pipelines in light of the 14 spills on the Keystone I pipeline which began operations in June 2010;
- Assurance that pipeline thickness will be the same in rural areas along the pipeline as in highly populated areas.

The Northern Plains Pipeline Landowners Group, a committee of Northern Plains Resource Council, is a group of landowners crossed by the proposed Keystone XL pipeline who have organized to negotiate with TransCanada an equitable contract which protects landowners and public safety.

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