



Weekly Update

January 26, 2012

Hello CORE Members,

Good news! The Obama administration announced last week that they are not going to approve the Keystone XL Pipeline. This is a huge win for the environmental movement that worked all last year to make it clear to the administration that the XL poses too great a danger to the environment without enough benefit. The fact that Obama listened shows just how powerful the people can be when they get together for a common cause.

This decision by Obama is a victory for us in Texoma as well as for the globe. The pipeline's route was going to go through the Northeast corner of Fannin County, directly through the Riverby Ranch (which opponents of the Lower Bois D'arc Reservoir know is the intended location for mitigation land for the reservoir). And, because the pipeline would be bringing the dirtiest oil in the world to the Gulf Coast for refining into diesel for the export market, making it easier to exploit the Tar Sands in Alberta, Canada, the pipeline could be a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.

Unfortunately, the Keystone XL is not dead. TransCanada, the company proposing the pipeline, is back on its heels but the fight is not over, not by a long shot. TransCanada is going to submit a new proposal for the pipeline, possibly rerouting it around the Ogallala aquifer, which might be easier to get approved.

As I wrote in an earlier update, the rhetoric around jobs and ending dependence on foreign oil that TransCanada and the pipeline's supporters have used is mostly hot air, but that doesn't stop them from using it just the same. People concerned about our dependence on fossil fuels, climate change, and general environmental degradation need to stay alert to the threat from the Tar Sands oil. As long as it is profitable to extract that dirty oil, clear-cutting a massive swath of the Boreal Forest in the process, oil companies will keep extracting it. The cancellation of the Keystone XL pipeline is not going to stop the Tar Sands oil from being developed, but it does take away a key market for the oil.

CORE will work keep on top of the issues surrounding the pipeline and the Tar Sands and keep you up to date.

Chris Voss
CORE President