

Mother Earth Accord

We, Tribal Government Chairs and Presidents, Traditional Treaty Councils, and US property owners, with First Nation Chiefs of Canada, impacted by TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL Pipeline and Tar Sands Development present at the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Emergency Summit, September 15-16, 2011, on the Protection of Mother Earth and Treaty Territories, Hereby;

Recognize the existing resolutions and letters in opposition to TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL Pipeline;

Recognizing that the proposed Keystone XL pipeline would stretch 1,980 miles, from Hardisty, Alberta, Canada to Nederland, Texas, carrying up to 900,000 barrels per day of tar sands crude oil, which would drive additional tar sands production;

Guided by the principles of traditional indigenous knowledge, spiritual values, and respectful use of the land;

Affirming our responsibility to protect and preserve for our descendants, the inherent sovereign rights of our Indigenous Nations, the rights of property owners, and all inherent human rights;

Affirming our Indigenous view that the Earth is our true mother, our grandmother who gives birth to us and maintains all life;

Recognizing that the tar sands in northern Alberta, Canada is one of the largest remaining deposits of unconventional oil in the world, containing approximately 2 trillion barrels, and there are plans for massive expansion development that would ultimately destroy an area larger than the State of Florida;

Recognizing that tar sand development has devastating impacts to Mother Earth and her inhabitants and perpetuates the crippling addiction to oil of the United States and Canada;

Recalling in September 2010, the Assembly of First Nations of Canada called on the United States government to take into account the environmental impacts of tar sands production on First Nations in its energy policy, citing the high rates of cancer in the downstream Fort Chipewyan community, which prominent scientists say are potentially linked to petroleum products;

Recognizing the findings published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that tar sands production releases 13 elements considered priority pollutants under the U.S. Clean Water Act, including lead, mercury, and arsenic, into the Athabasca River in northern Alberta, which flows 3,000 miles downstream to the Arctic Ocean;

Recognizing that tar sands production produces three times the greenhouse gas emissions of conventional oil and NASA climate scientist James Hansen has said that if the tar sands are fully developed, it will be "essentially game over" for the climate;

Therefore, we are united on this Mother Earth Accord, which is effective immediately, that:

We support and encourage a moratorium on tar sands development;

We insist on full consultation under the principles of "free, prior and informed consent," from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples both in the United States and Canada;

We urge regional authorities to halt the Exxon-Imperial and ConocoPhillips Heavy Haul shipments;

We urge the United States and Canada to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce their reliance on oil, including tar sands, and invest in the research and development of cleaner, safer forms of sustainable energy, including next-generation biofuels and electric vehicles powered by solar and wind energy.

We strongly believe that the Keystone XL pipeline is not in the national interest of the United States or Canada;

We urge President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to reject the Presidential Permit for the Keystone XL pipeline.