

*The Good Life  
Means Wildlife!*



May 9, 2011

The Honorable Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Kerri-Ann Jones  
Assistant Secretary of State  
for Oceans and International  
Scientific Affairs  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton and Assistant Secretary Jones,

I am writing with respect to the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, and the recent release of a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement on that proposed project. I write on behalf of the Nebraska Wildlife Federation, a non-profit, state-wide organization working for Nebraska's wildlife and wild places, with three requests:

**1. Please extend the comment period to 120 days**

The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement is a very substantial document, hundreds of pages long, that includes much new analysis from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued in 2010. The two documents must be read together, because the new analysis supplements, but does not replace, the draft.

We are wading through the analysis to understand the new analysis, but it is a daunting task. We are also trying to work with experts in various fields, including those at the University of Nebraska who have considerable expertise in groundwater pollution, the geology of the Sandhills region, and other topics of interest. However, the very brief comment period the State Department imposed will make it very difficult to review and assess the extensive new State Department analysis, and to research and craft comments.

As we understand your Department's own analysis, we are at least years away, and perhaps decades away, from any shortage of pipeline capacity to move tar sands oil from Canada to the United States. There is currently substantial excess capacity in the pipeline system to handle tar sands oil production for the foreseeable future. There is, therefore, no reason to rush through a decision on the environmental analysis or the ultimate permit, when so many significant questions remain unanswered.

**Board of Directors**

Dr. Russ Soucek, Seward  
*President*

Steve Kryger, Papillion  
*Vice President Administration*

James Johnson, Lincoln  
*Vice President Programs*

Bruce Kennedy, Malcolm  
*Past President*

Brian Bashore, Milford  
*NWF Delegate, Org Dev Chair*

Marge Kennedy, Malcolm  
*Treasurer*

Laura Tegtmeier, Lincoln  
*Secretary, Education Chair*

Gene Oglesby, Lincoln  
*Leadership Chair*

Connie Anderson, Gretna  
*Board Member*

Mike Coe, Crete  
*Board Member*

Dr. Marian Maas, Omaha  
*Board Member*

Fran Siedhoff, Crete  
*Board Member*

Jarel Vinduska, Gretna  
*Board Member*

***We urge you to extend the public comment period on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to at least 120 days to allow university and other experts and members of the public the time needed to adequately assess and understand the issues it raises, and to adequately research and prepare helpful comments.***

## **2. Please hold public hearings on the SDEIS in states in the pipeline corridor**

Should the Keystone XL pipeline be authorized and built, it will have substantial impacts on the states in the corridor. The pipeline will be in place for decades to come, so the impacts on landowners, the potential for leaks and spills, and the risks to groundwater, rivers, and wetlands will also be there for decades.

We believe the landowners and communities in the corridor deserve a chance to address the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the many issues it raises in a direct manner. The many university, state and federal agency, and other experts in the pipeline states would also have a chance to provide direct testimony and respond to questions.

***We urge you to schedule and hold public hearings on the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement in each of the pipeline corridor states. We urge you to hold the hearings in locations where landowners who will be impacted by the pipeline can easily attend, as you did with the original Draft Environmental Impact Statement. At a minimum, we suggest you hold hearings in the State Capitol of each state, where experts from universities, state agencies, and non-profit organizations, as well as impacted landowners, can provide comments.***

## **3. Please provide hard copies of the SEIS to key libraries in Nebraska**

We appreciate that the State Department provided hard copies of the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to many local libraries along the proposed pipeline corridor through Nebraska. Thank you for that broad local coverage!

However, based on the list provided in the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, no hard copies were provided to libraries in Nebraska's largest population centers, or to the key libraries where university and state agency experts would be able to easily access them. We urge you to send a paper copy and CD version of the proposed Keystone XL project Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement to the following libraries:

Love Library  
PO Box 884100  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln  
Lincoln, NE 68588-4100

Legislative Research Office  
Nebraska State Legislature  
Room 1201 State Capitol  
PO Box 94945  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4945

W. Dale Clark Public Library  
215 South 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68102

Bennett Martin Public Library  
136 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508

Nebraska Library Commission  
The Atrium  
1200 N Street, Suite 120  
Lincoln, NE 68508-2023

Criss Library  
University of Nebraska Omaha  
6001 Dodge Street  
Omaha, NE 68182-0237

Klutznick Law Library  
Creighton University  
2500 California Plaza  
Omaha, NE 68178

C.Y. Thompson Library  
38<sup>th</sup> & Holdrege Streets  
University of Nebraska East Campus  
Lincoln, NE 68583-0717

Distributing copies of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to these eight libraries, along with the many local libraries noted in the SEIS, should provide much broader access to the document by the researchers and others who have expertise that could prove valuable in assessing the document.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these three important requests.

Yours in Conservation,

*Duane Hovorka*

Duane Hovorka, executive director

Cc: Senator Mike Johanns  
Senator Ben Nelson  
Representative Jeff Fortenberry  
Representative Adrian Smith  
Representative Lee Terry  
Governor Dave Heineman