Straight Talk about the Keystone XL Pipeline
Addressing Myths with Facts
1. **Myth:** Keystone XL Pipeline will not be a safe pipeline.

   **Fact:** It’s clear that the Keystone XL will be the safest pipeline ever built in North America. Keystone XL will use satellite technology to monitor 20,000 data points on the pipeline’s operating conditions. TransCanada has also voluntarily agreed to 57 new safety procedures to provide even greater confidence regarding the operating and monitoring of Keystone XL. This includes a higher number of remotely controlled shut-off valves, increased pipeline inspections and burying the pipe deeper in the ground. The Department of State, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS – March, 2013) for Keystone XL concluded, “the incorporation of 57 special conditions would result in a project that would have a degree of safety over any other typically constructed domestic oil pipeline system under the current code”.

2. **Myth:** Keystone XL will provide little or no economic benefits to the United States.

   **Fact:** The Keystone XL Pipeline project will support the creation of 9,000 construction jobs in the United States – work for pipefitters, welders, electricians, heavy equipment operators and many more. The Department of State noted in the DEIS that Keystone XL will contribute to America’s long-term energy security, support tens of thousands of jobs, and provide billions in private sector investment, earnings and taxes. The DEIS report states:
   - Construction of the proposed project would contribute approximately $3.4 billion to U.S. GDP if implemented.
   - A total of 42,100 jobs throughout the United States would be supported by construction of the proposed project.
   - Total employment earnings supported by the proposed project would be approximately $2.053 billion.

3. **Myth:** Oil sands crude is more corrosive than conventional crude and will cause the pipeline to leak.

   **Fact:** Oil sands crude is no different than any other heavy crude and is completely safe to transport through pipelines. Keystone XL will carry light and heavier blends of oil from Canada and the U.S. Numerous world-renowned laboratory studies, including a study by the National Academy of Sciences, have shown that pipelines carrying oil sands oil are just as safe as other pipelines carrying crude oil. The study concluded diluted bitumen (dilbit) does not have unique properties that make it more likely than other crude oils to cause internal damage to pipelines from corrosion, nor is dilbit more likely to cause spills when compared to other crude oils.

4. **Myth:** The Keystone XL Pipeline is an export pipeline to China.

   **Fact:** Keystone XL will transport Canadian and U.S. crude oil to refineries on the Gulf Coast. The U.S. Gulf Coast currently relies heavily on imports from Venezuela and the Middle East. Growing U.S. and Canadian production will displace more expensive crude oils from less stable countries.

5. **Myth:** Keystone XL will substantially increase greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

   **Fact:** Since 2008, four Department of State environmental impact studies have consistently shown that Keystone XL will have “no significant impact on the environment”. The oil sands produce six per cent of Canada’s total GHG emissions and just 0.2 per cent of global GHG emissions. In fact, out of the top countries that the U.S. currently gets oil from (which includes Canada, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Iraq) only Canada has substantial greenhouse gas regulations in place.
6. **Myth:** The Keystone XL Pipeline is no longer needed.

**Fact:** Today, the United States consumes 15 million barrels of oil a day (bbl/d) and imports eight to nine million barrels every day – close to 60 per cent of its needs. A 2012 forecast by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) states that the U.S. will continue to import 7.5 million bbl/d into 2035 to meet its needs. Americans have a fundamental choice to make: get their oil from a secure, stable and friendly neighbor in Canada, or continue to import higher priced, “conflict oil” from the Middle East and Venezuela – where American values and interests are not shared or respected.

7. **Myth:** TransCanada will take land from farmers and other private landowners.

**Fact:** For a pipeline easement, property ownership never changes hands. Just like a water, sewer or utility line on most people’s property, when an easement is registered for the pipeline the landowner always retains ownership of the property and once construction is complete they continue to maintain the economic right to the surface. The landowner is able to continue to use the land for agricultural activities. Easement agreements only provide the right to access the pipeline right-of-way during construction and for maintenance, once the pipeline is in operation. With little exception, the landowners will continue to use their land within the easement and only signs along the pipeline let people know the pipeline route is there. TransCanada is committed to treating all landowners who may be affected by our project honestly, fairly and with mutual respect. All landowners will receive fair and equitable compensation for land easements granted. TransCanada will work closely with landowners to identify special circumstances, land restrictions, access routes and other construction requirements to minimize disturbance to the land and the environment.

8. **Myth:** Landowners are responsible and liable in the event of an oil spill.

**Fact:** TransCanada is 100 per cent responsible for responding, cleaning and restoring the site in the unlikely event of a pipeline leak. It’s our responsibility – as a good company and under law. If anything happens on the Keystone XL Pipeline, rapid response is key. That’s why our Emergency Response plans are approved by state and federal agencies, and why we practice them regularly. We conduct regular emergency exercises, and aerial surveys every two weeks. We’re ready to respond with a highly-trained response team standing by. At TransCanada, we continually look at ways to improve our system. Since 2011, TransCanada has invested an average of about $900 million per year in its pipeline integrity and maintenance programs.

9. **Myth:** Landowners will have to give back payments negotiated for easements if the Keystone XL Pipeline isn’t approved.

**Fact:** Landowners keep the money they received for easements from TransCanada. We take pride in the relationships we have with more than 60,000 landowners across North America.

10. **Myth:** Once the pipeline is built, TransCanada has no further obligations to the farmer or private landowner.

**Fact:** Our commitment to landowners doesn’t end when the Keystone XL Pipeline is built – that’s when it begins. The safety of the entire pipeline is our responsibility for as long as it operates, and it’s a responsibility we take very seriously. Once completed, TransCanada will provide continuous state-of-the-art monitoring to ensure the Keystone XL pipeline operates safely. We will work closely with landowners to preserve the land and care for right-of-ways. TransCanada works with environmental experts and landowners to preserve topsoil and replant with the most appropriate native grass and plant species to promote rapid reclamation and erosion prevention. We monitor environmental reclamation for years following construction, and our job isn’t done until landowners and regulatory agencies are satisfied.
About the Keystone System

The Keystone Pipeline System is a 3,861-mile (6,214-kilometre), 30 and 36-inch-diameter crude oil pipeline system, beginning in Hardisty, Alberta, and extending south to refining hubs in Illinois, Oklahoma and Nederland, Texas.

The system includes:

- Oil storage facilities in Hardisty, Alberta
- The Keystone Pipeline: a 1,853-mile (2,982-kilometre), 30-inch pipeline that delivers crude from the oil sands in Alberta to refinery hubs in Illinois and Oklahoma. The Cushing Extension has been in-service since 2011.
- Cushing Extension: an additional 298-mile (480-kilometre) pipeline extension between Steele City, Nebraska, and Cushing, Oklahoma. The Cushing Extension has been in-service since 2011.
- The Gulf Coast Pipeline: an approximate 485-mile (780-kilometre), 36-inch pipeline that connects oil storage facilities in Cushing, Oklahoma with Gulf Coast refineries in Texas.
- Bakken Marketlink and Cushing Marketlink Projects: provides access for domestically produced crude oil into the Keystone System.
- The Keystone XL Pipeline: a proposed 1,179-mile (1,897-kilometre), 36-inch, 830,000 barrel per day pipeline running from Hardisty, Alberta to Steele City, Nebraska.
- Houston Lateral Project: an additional 48-mile (77-kilometre) pipeline designed to transport oil to refineries in Houston, Texas.

When complete, the Keystone Pipeline System will be capable of transporting 1.3 million barrels of crude oil per day to state-of-the-art refinery hubs in the U.S. Midwest and Gulf Coast.