Keystone XL reaches labor agreement in U.S. with four trade unions

On August 5, we were proud to sign a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with four leading trade unions that will inject hundreds of millions of dollars in middle-class wages into the American economy, while ensuring this pipeline will be built by the highest-skilled and highest-trained workforce.

The team is particularly excited about a newly established initiative known as the Green Jobs Training Program, which is outlined in the PLA. Through this Program, union members will be supported to acquire new, specialized skills required to work in the developing renewable energy sector. We will contribute approximately $10 million, recognizing the 10-million-plus hours anticipated to be worked on the Project by union workers, to establish new training courses for current and future union members in North America.

“…We are proud to partner with these union trades and craft workers to ensure this pipeline will be built by qualified professionals with specialized skills to the highest safety and quality standards. We are especially proud of the new Green Jobs Training Program, which is an investment in thousands of current and future union workers.”

RICHARD PRIOR,
President, Keystone XL

Project construction will support the creation of 42,000 family-sustaining jobs in the U.S., including more than 10,000 high-paying construction jobs that will be filled primarily by union workers. Keystone XL construction will generate $2 billion in earnings for U.S. workers, according to the 2014 Final Environmental Impact Statement done by the U.S. State Department.
We’re building

U.S.

The Project made significant strides in construction and preconstruction activity in all three key states along the route this past summer, with construction underway on pump stations, workforce camps and road improvement work in Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. In all, more than 900 people were put to work over the past few months, including mowing crews on the right-of-way, engineering work on the pump stations and survey crews.

Overall, work began on seven pump stations along the route: three in Montana, three in South Dakota and one in Nebraska. This included grading the pump station sites, installing underground utilities and developing the access roads into the station sites.

Pump stations are the engines that move the oil at a steady walking pace through the pipeline. They are built at strategic points along the pipeline route to maintain a constant flow of product.

We also made considerable progress on two workforce camps in Montana and South Dakota:

• Baker, Montana — We completed mass grading and installed underground utilities (water, wastewater and electrical) to our Baker work site. We will complete the installation of camp modules and RV stalls next year. When constructed, the camp will have 646 beds and 300 RV stalls.

• Philip, South Dakota — Construction of this workforce camp was completed in mid-August and will house our pipeline and pump stations workforce. It has 300 RV stalls and 100 dorm rooms, along with a commissary, infirmary, small kitchen, dining room and laundry facilities.

Road improvement work continued in all three states, as well.

Canada

Construction is well underway in Canada. Favourable summer weather in Alberta contributed to a positive pace of construction for both the facilities and pipeline portions of the Project.

Work is progressing at all five pump stations in Alberta. We have completed civil earthworks at our Lakesend, Oyen South and Monitor South pump station facilities. This work includes stripping and storing the topsoil for future reclamation and then grading the site in preparation for piling and other construction activities.

Our facilities team also continues to progress the full buildout of our Hardisty and Bindloss pump stations. Work to date includes, civil earthworks, piling and the installation of pump bases. We anticipate both stations to be completed by year end.

Michels Canada, our prime contractor for the Alberta portion of pipeline construction, is leading stringing, welding, grading, stripping and fencing work along the right-of-way. The majority of pipeline construction activities so far have been in Special Areas No. 3, as we work our way north towards the start of the Keystone XL route near Hardisty, Alberta.

Construction has been completed at both of our workforce camps in the Oyen, Alberta, area, which will accommodate more than 600 workers. In addition to our workforce camps, our Project team will also continue to stay in local hotels, rental properties and RV parks. There are around 1,000 workers currently on site, with that number rising over the next several weeks.

To learn more, please visit KeystoneXL.com/Construction.

Safety is at the forefront of all of our activity this year in the U.S. We are proud of the work that we accomplished this year and the protocols and policies that we quickly put into place to meet the challenges of a global pandemic.”

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Workforce camps provide a safe home away from home

Three states, two provinces, one Project. The 1,210-mile (1,947-km) Project is bringing together a North American workforce of 13,200 of the most skilled and qualified men and women across various disciplines including, welders, surveyors, engineers, environmental specialists, among many others. To support these activities over the next three years, many of these hard-working individuals will be looking for a safe home away from home, after returning from a day’s work.

Our Project team dedicated significant time and consultation to design and construct its workforce accommodations, ensuring a safe and positive experience for workers and nearby communities.

We recently sat down with Kathryn Kim, a Field Engineer in Training (EIT) supporting construction and inspection activities for Keystone XL in Alberta, to learn about life at our Oyen workforce camp.

What is your role on the Keystone XL Project?

I work on a team of three EITs and we work on a three-week-on/one-week-off shift in the field. Both my accommodations and field offices are based at the workforce camp here.

My day-to-day activities typically include on-site meetings and routine visits to the Project’s right-of-way to observe daily construction activities.

What is life like living at a workforce camp?

I have been pleasantly surprised by the accommodations and amenities that have been built into the workforce camp. I am really enjoying life here so far. Out in the field, I find you can get very immersed in your daily work, it’s nice to have a comfortable space to relax and unwind after work.

I usually start my day around 5 a.m., to prepare for our first series of early meetings with the inspection team and typically conclude my work day around 5 p.m.

Following the work day, I try and get in a workout which consists of runs in the Town of Oyen (while the weather/daylight allows) or working out at the gym on site. I have also been fortunate to build a community with my colleagues. Some days we try to get a couple golf games in after work at the local golf course!

The food at the workforce camp has also been really good. The kitchen staff have been friendly and there is a wide variety of food choices available.

How do amenities at the workforce camp make it feel like home?

There are lots of amenities and attention to making it feel as homey as possible. Our rooms are spacious, and the staff ensure that we have what we need. There is also a lot of storage space available in our rooms, so we can bring items from home to make our time here more comfortable.

They also recently installed a gym, yoga and recreation room.

Safety is at the core of everything we do. Do you feel safe at a workforce camp?

I feel incredibly safe residing at the workforce camp. It is well organized, and the staff take the time to ensure the workforce camp is operating safely and smoothly and make themselves available to respond to any feedback or requests. There is also 24/7 site security present around the workforce camp area.

I am aware of negative connotations with respect to working in the field — especially in a male-dominated workplace. I do not feel any negativity working on site or feeling unwelcome from any individuals on site. In fact, I have seen more women than I expected, coming onto Keystone XL, and it’s great to see women having a presence on this Project in a variety of roles.

Describe COVID-19 protection protocols at the workforce camp.

The Project has introduced several protocols to ensure the safety of the community and our workforce. We have been supplied with masks and hand sanitizer, follow social distancing and have tailgate meetings, in which COVID protocols are reinforced daily. So far, everyone has been respectful of each other and understand the severity of COVID-19.

Describe your experience and how the community of Oyen has treated you.

I have very much enjoyed spending my time in Oyen. Our team often enjoys meals at the restaurants in town. I have also been able to visit the Oyen farmers’ market and interact with some of the locals and they are very welcoming, and it was nice to purchase local products.

I am also incredibly proud of how our team in the field and in Calgary have collaborated to set up some meaningful community initiatives, such as:

• Raising money for a young, local man who broke his back in a dirt bike accident.
• Collecting donations for the Oyen & District Food Bank.
• Running a bottle drive to collect recyclables from our offices and the workforce camp and donating refunds to local charities along the Project’s footprint.
Safety remains at the core of the Project

Simply put, our goal is to ensure Keystone XL is constructed and operated in a way that safeguards the community, our workforce and the environment.

To achieve this goal, we recognize the important role that all first responders play in keeping communities safe. In support of this invaluable work, the Project has proudly partnered with first responders across North America to support safety initiatives totaling over $325,000 in 2020 alone.

In Alberta, we provided a $35,000 donation to HALO Air Ambulance to guarantee the continued operation of their medevac helicopter service to surrounding communities. We were recently on CHAT 94.5 radio detailing our support and providing our rationale for funding first responder organizations more broadly.

In Nebraska, our team has contributed over $152,000 to local fire, rescue, police and other emergency response services, to help them obtain the goods and services they need to effectively protect their communities.

In Montana, we’ve partnered with several ambulance services, search and rescue teams and fire departments across the Keystone XL route donating $65,000, which provides training and the ability to upgrade equipment and purchase lifesaving materials. Most recently, we provided a donation to both the Hinsdale Volunteer Ambulance Service and to Phillips County Ambulance to help update their ambulance fleet.

Together, these upgrades ensure local first responders are better able to protect the communities in which they live, work and play.

At the end of the day, we know that supporting local first responder organizations across North America ensures that the tools and resources communities need to go home safely, every day, remain available to them; and therefore, we are committed to continuing to provide our support going forward.

"Overall this money will help us keep our doors open so we may continue to serve our community. Thank you again."

RHEI THARP,
Phillips County Ambulance Service Coordinator

TC Energy supports Montana FFA

As a Project, we value giving to organizations that make a positive difference in the lives of students, through our Build Strong Program.

Part of Build Strong’s priority is to invest in organizations focused on science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which falls right in line with many of the Montana FFA events and competitions. The Montana FFA’s mission is to develop students’ potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. FFA members live by the motto of Learning to Do. Doing to Learn. Earning to Live and Living to Serve.

FUN FACT:
A member of our own Project team, Tayla Snapp, is a proud Montana FFA Alumni.

Helping Philip, S.D., build safer sidewalks

Over the past 10 years, the City of Philip, South Dakota, has been working to improve their pedestrian sidewalk system, as funding became available. Upon being made aware of this safety-focused initiative the Project team couldn’t pass up the opportunity to assist the City of Philip in marking these improvements off their to-do list. Learn more about what this means to the community.
Did you know?

The U.S. imported nearly one billion barrels of heavy Canadian oil in 2019, as many U.S. refineries are designed to process heavier grades of oil.

There are many different grades of crude oil, ranging from light to heavy, however, the United States produces mostly light, “sweet” crude, which is known for its low sulfur content. The U.S. imports some grades of oil that are not produced domestically. This comes primarily in the form of heavy crude oil, which is supplied through Alberta’s oil sands.

Currently, the U.S. lacks the necessary pipeline capacity to transport this crude. This means that companies must rely on less safe methods of transportation, such as rail and truck, which present far more danger to highways and local communities. Over the past decade imports of Canadian oil by rail — which generate more GHG emissions — have increased due to delays in critical infrastructure projects.

Did you know?

Pipelines are the safest method of transporting crude oil over long distances.

Safer than truck, rail and barge

- 3,000x safer than truck
- 25x safer than rail
- 36x safer than barge

Our commitment to safety guides how we work 24/7, 365.

I am really excited about the people coming to the area to work on the Project. We are going to get to meet a lot of new people and gain a pipeline family during construction; and they are here to help the communities, not only financially, but also personally by being a part of it.”

ROGER DIDYCHUK,
Fire Chief,
MD of Acadia Valley
#TimeToBuild #KeystoneXL

After several years of environmental studies, adhering to regulatory guidelines and engaging with local communities, we, like Jordon, believe it’s time to build Keystone XL.

Visit KeystoneXL.com/Time-To-Build to watch some of the many share their support for Keystone XL.

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PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Trenching the way for Keystone XL

Across our pipeline right-of-way, Trenching Wheels play a significant role in digging the pipeline ditch. These powerful machines can cut through different ground conditions to efficiently create stable trenches up to two meters wide and up to three meters deep. Trenching Wheels are often used in combination with other techniques, such as excavators, to make way for a pipeline’s future home.

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CONTACT US

Stay in touch and learn more

We want to ensure that those interested have access to Project updates and information. Check out these platforms to learn more:

- Visit our website: KeystoneXL.com
- Email us: keystone@tcenergy.com
- Call us: 1.866.717.7473 Toll-Free (North America)
- Follow us on social media: Twitter.com/KXLPipeline Facebook.com/KXLPipeline
- Sign up for our Keystone XL Pipeline Project Updates: KeystoneXL.com/Updates
- Emergency Response
  Our commitment to the safety of our people, pipelines and facilities is unwavering. In case of an emergency, please call the appropriate 24-hour toll-free hotline:
  - Canada: 1.888.982.7222
  - United States: 1.866.920.0007
- Landowner Helpline
  A key component in maintaining the integrity of our facilities is input from stakeholders, Indigenous groups, landowners and governments. If you have questions or concerns, please let us know.
  - Canada: 1.855.920.4694
  - United States: 1.866.585.7063
- Indigenous Relations
  - Toll-free (North America): 1.866.224.0104
- Public Affairs
  - Toll-free (North America): 1.855.895.8574