

Save Our Soil

Reroute the Keystone Pipelines

As currently planned, the Keystone Pipeline would cut through 218 miles of North Dakota's woodlands, prime farmland, and irreplaceable native prairie, and pipeline leakage would inevitably pollute the Sheyenne River and Fargo's water supply.

The current pipeline is only one of many this company has planned for the Sheyenne Valley. They would come from the immense Tar Sands strip mines of Alberta and carry bitumen and toxins from one of the most destructive projects on earth. Mercury, arsenic, and carcinogens have spread in ground water in Canada far from their source, and a leak could put them into North Dakotans' drinking water months before anyone was aware of it.



SOS - Save Our Soil - is a group of citizens working to reroute the pipeline away from Lake Ashtabula and the Sheyenne valley. Our initiated measure reads in part: "No pipeline to carry crude oil shall be built within six miles of a lake or aquifer that provides water to more than 5,000 people."

The effect would be to move the pipeline to the other side of a glacial moraine, or high gravel ridge, where the water would be safe.

Q: Would the pipelines leak?

A: YES. The pipeline is made of plain carbon steel, which inevitably rusts in 7 to 9 years.

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A pinhole leak of 2% is not detectable; so 2% of 435,000 barrels per day will leak for 90 days before coming to the surface and being spotted or smelled by a farmer or motorist. Over 700,000 barrels of tar and solvents could escape before the leak was discovered and the valves shut off.

Q: Would the toxins really get into the river and lake?

A: Yes. The pipeline's current route parallels the Sheyenne River, the Fordville Aquifer, and Lake Ashtabula, which supplies Fargo with water, for 80 miles. Most of this is within three miles upslope from the river and lake, and it goes under the Sheyenne at Fort Ransom. Toxins could reach the river within as little as four minutes in water and would certainly reach it eventually.

Q: What would it do to farmland?

A: Ruin it, probably forever. A pinhole leak could spoil more than 400 acres before being detected. The soil can never be replaced.

Q: What about the oil industry here in North Dakota?

A: The initiative's regulations would not apply to pipelines used to carry oil from North Dakota oil wells - both to promote our own oil over foreign oil and because the light, sweet crude from North Dakota does not carry unknown toxins.

Q: What can I do?

A: 1) Sign and circulate our initiative petition.

2) Get the petition and read more about it at:

www.saveoursoil.net

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