



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF HOUSTON
TEXAS

ANNISE D. PARKER
MAYOR

March 1, 2011

Hon. Hillary Rodham Clinton
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I am contacting you regarding the Keystone XL Pipeline. I appreciate the State Department's efforts to analyze the environmental impacts of this project; however, the Draft EIS does not provide a sufficient level of detail to adequately analyze the environmental conditions that the project presents to the Houston area.

I write to add my voice to that of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) and others recommending that the State Department provide additional analysis and information for the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline project. There are a number of issues that were not sufficiently addressed in the current Draft EIS. Both the EPA and the City of Houston are concerned with the potential for increased emissions of air pollutants at Texas refineries, the effects on the low income communities surrounding the proposed pipeline site, and the safety and spill response preparation.

The proposed pipeline would carry tar sands and crude oil from Alberta, Canada to Houston and Port Arthur for refining. The revised EIS study should address the effect of the increased production on the Houston region's air quality and its ability to attain compliance with the Clean Air Act. The current draft study only addresses the air quality impact from the construction and operation of the pipeline.

Additionally, the revised draft EIS should include the health effects on the community in the vicinity of the pipeline. The current study assumes the community can be represented by the Harris County income level and ethnic distribution. In practice, the community has traditionally been lower income than the County in its entirety. Lastly, the revised draft EIS should detail and clarify procedures that the pipeline operator will have in place to address risks and failure of machinery.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Department of State prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Keystone XL Pipeline and that the public be given adequate opportunity to comment on the SEIS.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to working with you to keep the citizens of the Houston area safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Annise D. Parker
Mayor

Cc: Robert D. Hormats, Under Secretary for Economic, Energy, and Agricultural Affairs
Ms. Cheryl Mills, Counselor and Chief of Staff to the Secretary
Mr. Daniel A. Clune, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
D. Feldman, LGL
C. Price, LGL
L. Spanjian, MYR