

## *The effect of canceling Keystone XL*

February 1, 2021

President Joe Biden was elected the 46th President of the United States on November 3rd, 2020. Following the insanity that continued until inauguration day, President Biden would be sworn into office. Shortly after he would begin by signing off on several executive orders, One of these executive orders would effectively cancel the Keystone XL Project. The Keystone XL Pipeline according to the website [www.keystonexl.com](http://www.keystonexl.com), “The Keystone XL Pipeline is the fourth phase of the Keystone Pipeline System, an oil pipeline system in Canada and the United States solely owned by TC Energy, commissioned in 2010. Keystone XL is a 1,210-mile (1,947-km) pipeline capable of safely delivering 830,000 barrels per day (Bbl/day) of crude oil from Hardisty, Alberta, to Steele City, Nebraska, where it will connect with TC Energy’s existing facilities to reach U.S. Gulf Coast refiners to meet critical needs for transportation fuel and useful manufactured products. The pipeline project will invest US\$8.0 billion into the North American economy.” Essentially, the Keystone pipeline would be a massive boost for the Economy of the United States and Canada. However, due to the executive order taken by the president which states: “On March 29, 2019, the President granted to TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, L.P. a Presidential permit (the “Permit”) to construct, connect, operate, and maintain pipeline facilities at the international border of the United States and Canada (the “Keystone XL pipeline”), subject to express conditions and potential revocation in the President’s sole discretion. The Permit is hereby revoked in accordance with Article 1(1) of the Permit.” (Biden, 2021) The pipeline will no longer be constructed as long as this administration is in office. According to Rachel Frazin of The Hill: “TC Energy, the Canadian company behind the Keystone XL pipeline, says it will lay off 1,000 workers following President Biden’s decision to revoke a key permit for the pipeline.” (Frazin, 2021) This shows that due to the ending of the project 1,000 workers will lose their job. Essentially, Joe Biden is eliminating the jobs of 1,000 hard-working Americans and potentially sacrificing around 8 Billion dollars in the economy of both America and Canada.

While one can see why Biden did this with his environment first approach. Americans and Canadians alike will suffer the consequences. Higher gas prices being the main driving factor. Sure you could go buy an electric car but not everyone has \$40k to drop on a brand new tesla or hell even a used one. Not to mention these electric cars while they work to partially eliminate some of the issues caused by you know, burning gasoline they are still produced in factories and are charged by, you guessed it, fossil fuels. So what exactly does this loss of 1,000 jobs benefit Americans? A cleaner environment? Sure that is an excellent point I mean I love the environment I spend many of my days outside enjoying it. However, this still does not necessarily help me any as I do not have \$40k to drop on a Tesla Model 3 (Which I would personally love) and I do not have \$3.00 a gallon of gas. We will soon be headed in that direction. At the time of me writing this article, the cost of crude oil is around \$55. But wait,

what does the cost of crude oil have to do with the Keystone XL pipeline? Well, the Keystone pipeline would likely push America to independence from foreign oil. Which in turn, would drive the price of gasoline down. We watched gasoline prices drop insanely when the COVID-19 Pandemic began, which allowed us to see gas prices below \$1. The prices normalized and by the time Inauguration rolled around. Gas prices began to rise. President Biden is responsible for the growth in gas prices by doing this and the loss of 1,000 American jobs. Many people might say “Oh well they can find another job.” Before you say this I want you to think back to when the COVID pandemic started. Did you say that about the 20.6 million jobs that were lost? We cannot pick and choose what jobs we support. All jobs should be treated the same. Regardless of your environmental opinion, it seems like TC Energy was working out ways to make the pipeline as environmentally friendly as possible. Gasoline isn’t going anywhere any time soon so why make it harder on the less wealthy American citizens?

## Citations

Biden, J. (2021, January 21). Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-protecting-public-health-and-environment-and-restoring-science-to-tackle-climate-crisis/>

Frazin, R. (2021, January 21). Canadian firm cuts 1,000 jobs after Biden revokes the Keystone XL permit. Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/535273-canadian-firm-cuts-1000-jobs-after-biden-revokes-keystone-xl-permit>