

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The environmental consequences of constructing and operating the proposed Keystone XL Project would vary in duration and significance. Four levels of impact duration were considered: temporary, short term, long term, and permanent. Temporary impacts would generally occur during construction, with the resources returning to pre-construction conditions almost immediately afterward. Short-term impacts would continue for approximately 3 years following construction. Impacts were considered long term if the resources would require more than 3 years to recover. Permanent impacts would occur as a result of activities that modify resources to the extent that they would not return to pre-construction conditions during the life of the proposed Project, such as with construction of aboveground structures. An impact resulting in a substantial adverse change in the environment would be considered significant.

This section discusses the affected environment, construction and operations impacts, and mitigation for each affected resource. The proposed Project would incorporate measures to reduce environmental impacts as described in Sections 3.1 through 3.14, and Keystone would implement mitigation measures that may be necessary to further reduce impacts as required or recommended by resource agencies.

Conclusions in this EIS are based on the analysis of environmental impacts and the following assumptions:

- Keystone would comply with all applicable laws and regulations;
- Keystone would, if the Presidential Permit is granted, incorporate into the proposed Project and into its manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies that is required by 49 CFR 195.402, the set of 57 Project-specific Special Conditions developed by PHMSA;
- Keystone would incorporate the mitigation measures required in permits issued by environmental permitting agencies into the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed Project;
- Keystone would construct, operate, and maintain the proposed Project as described in this EIS; and
- Keystone would implement the measures designed to avoid or reduce impacts described in its application for a Presidential Permit and supplemental filings with DOS, the Construction, Mitigation, and Reclamation (CMR) Plan presented in Appendix B, and the construction methods described in Appendix H.

Sections 3.1 through 3.12 address the impacts of the proposed Project during construction and normal operation. Section 3.13 provides information on potential impacts due to spills of petroleum products or other hazardous materials from the proposed Project during construction and spills of crude oil during operation of the proposed Project.

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