

## 4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter describes the direct and indirect environmental impacts that would be caused by the construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the proposed Keystone XL Project (proposed Project) and discusses mitigation measures. The U.S. Department of State has issued this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final Supplemental EIS), which builds on the Final EIS completed in August 2011 and the Draft Supplemental EIS completed in March 2013. These analyses have been revised, expanded, and updated in this Final Supplemental EIS to include significant new circumstances or information that has become available. Particular attention has been placed on impacts within those portions of the proposed Project and its connected actions that differ from the previously proposed Keystone XL pipeline route.

Cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed Project and other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects are described separately in Section 4.15, Cumulative Effects Assessment. Impacts associated with alternatives to the proposed Project are described in Chapter 5, Alternatives.

As noted in Chapter 3, Affected Environment, and in Section 1.7, Environmental Review of the Canadian Portion of the Keystone XL Project, this Final Supplemental EIS does not include an in-depth analysis of environmental impacts from the proposed pipeline in Canada, as these have been assessed separately by the Canadian government consistent with Executive Order 12114 (Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions). However, as a matter of policy, in addition to its environmental analysis of the proposed Project in the United States, the U.S. Department of State has included information regarding potential impacts in Canada in Section 4.15.4, Extraterritorial Concerns. Information related to impacts from the proposed Project and its alternatives associated with development of the oil sands is included in Section 1.4, Market Analysis, and Section 4.15.4.2, Concerns Related to Oil Sand Extraction.

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