

Statement for public comment. By Cindy Myers; Stuart, NE; October 6, 2014

I've been an RN for 34 years. My primary concern about KXL is the risk to the health and well-being of people. There is no health impact assessment in the environmental review required for the federal application by TransCanada. This same document does declare that we can expect leakage, even thousands of barrels oozing daily undetected.

We don't know the exact chemical makeup of the KXL product. How can medical providers treat unknown toxicity? Unknown leaks of unknown toxins is a very scary situation for people in the path. We do know benzene is carcinogenic and a component of all petroleum products and it only takes 5 parts of benzene in a billion parts of water to make that water undrinkable. Mysterious, insidious cases of rare cancers is not the legacy to leave our future generations.

Consider the many cities and reservations which depend on the Missouri River for their drinking water. The federal study does not take into account the numerous tributaries crossed by KXL that feed into the Missouri. Current water treatment facilities aren't capable of removing benzene, meaning if a spill occurs, there is no alternative plan in place other than to let the flowing water dilute itself. More frequent testing for benzene would be a reaction for the obvious spills, but continuous testing for benzene would be necessitated for the undetected spills into this primary drinking water source. This is not an economic issue; it is a human rights issue.