## **Pipeline**

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sand dunes known as the Sandhills. Heineman said in his letter that the new, 195-mile route through Nebraska avoids the Sandhills but would still cross over a small part of the aquifer.

The pipeline's most vocal critics remain firmly opposed to the project.

"Gov. Heineman just performed one of the biggest flip-flops that we've seen in Nebraska political history," said Jane Kleeb, executive director of the group Bold

Heineman has previously said he would oppose any pipeline route that endangered the aquifer. In his letter to federal officials, Heineman said any spills along the new route would be localized, and any cleanup responsibilities would fall to TransCanada. He also said the project would result in \$418.1 million in economic benefits for the state, plus \$16.5 million in state tax revenue from the pipeline construction materials.

Kleeb said those estimates came from a study commissioned by TransCanada that included jobcreation numbers which have since been debunked. The report done by the Perryman Group originally claimed that project would create 20,000 jobs, but estimates later used by the State Department said the project would create 5.000 to 6,000 construction jobs during the roughly two years it would take to build the pipeline.

Those favoring the Keystone XL project, including such organizations as Americans for Prosperity, the Consumer Energy Alliance and Nebraskans for Jobs and Energy Independence, have cited the nation's need for more oil and praised its potential economic impact.

Heineman said TransCanada has assured state environmental officials that the company would create an emergency response plan in case of a spill and would test water wells at landowners' request.

TransCanada executives have said the company will build a pipeline with rigorous safeguards and carry \$200 million in thirdparty liability insurance to cover cleanup costs in Nebraska. TransCanada CEO and President Russ Girling said Tuesday that the project had passed a strict review and

would help national security. "The need for Keystone XL continues to grow stronger as North American oil production increases. and having the right infrastructure in place is critical to meet the goal of reducing dependence on foreign oil," Girling said in the statement. "Keystone XL is the most studied cross-border pipeline ever proposed, and it remains in America's national interests to approve a pipeline that will have a minimal impact on the environment."

Canadian officials also cheered the announcement.

"As we have repeatedly said, the Keystone XL Pipeline will create thousands of jobs on both sides of the border — including 140,000 in Canada," said Andrew MacDougall, a spokesman for Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Canada exports most of its oil to the U.S. and needs a way to move its growing oil sands production from northern Alberta, which has more than 170 billion barrels of proven reserves. Daily production of 1.5 million barrels from the oil sands is expected to increase to 3.7 million in 2025. Only Saudi Arabia and Venezuela have more reserves.

Pipeline opponents are still challenging a Nebraska pipeline-siting law that was written as part of a deal to let state officials review the project. The plaintiffs — a group of Nebraska landowners opposed to the project — say they are concerned that a pipeline company could use the state power of eminent domain to obtain land for a project. A judge has allowed the lawsuit to proceed in court.

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a.m. that they were housing students at other places."

The first few hours of the evacuation were a confusing time, she

said.
"The communication was kind of bad; we really didn't know what was happening in the Village," Doom said. "Eventually, they (university officials) sent out an e-mail in the middle of the night about the pipe bursting. Since then, we've just been playing by ear and reading our e-mails to see what's going on.'

The evacuation went smoothly, school officials said.

'We can't thank the students enough for their patience and cooperation during the evacuation process," said Kimberly Grieve, dean of students at USD, who noted that Coyote Village residents were taken to the Muenster University Center ballroom where university officials arranged hotel rooms for all displaced students.

According to Grieve, 160 students spent Monday night at two local hotels. Shuttle services, running every 15 minutes on Tuesday, are transporting students from the hotels to campus.

During most of Tuesday, students were able to return to Coyote

Village to retrieve clothes and other belongings. They were not allowed, however, to enter the facility after 5 p.m. Tuesday, Haraldson

She didn't know how long the affected students would require hotel and shuttle accommodations. 'We're just taking it one day at a time," Haraldson said.

Affected students, including Doom, had received an email Tuesday from the university asking them to check out of their motel rooms and return to Coyote Village.

"I don't expect any of my friends or myself to do that, just because there isn't any water or electricity," she said. "I don't really know what they are expecting us to do, since it's not exactly livable there right now.

"I'm just at a friend's place, hanging out," Doom said.

It is not yet known when the students will be able to return to their dorm full-time.

One of the issues is that (the pipe) decided to break right over the electrical room," Haraldson said "So, when the water came down it got the main electrical panel wet, and we have to order some parts."

Coyote Village, which opened in 2010, has 175 units with 550 beds, including two- and four-bedroom options for students. The complex houses 494 residents and is located just south of the DakotaDome on the USD campus.



## **County**

"Every one of those issues is at the point where they are moving forward," Moore said.

The commission spent a good deal of time Tuesday discussing the acquisition of laptops or tablets for themselves that would eliminate the need for most printed documents at

"The technology continues to improve," Commissioner Mark Johnson stated. "Right now, it's to the point that it's easy enough for us to utilize it well. The prices have come down quite a bit, too."

Also placed on the list is the possible hiring of a part-time administrative assistant for the commission. Moore said the individual could research items, establish meeting ager das and generally help the commission as needed. Currently, those duties mostly fall on the auditor's office.

Johnson stated the idea has more traction than it has in the past because of increasing workloads for not only the auditor's office but other county departments, as well.

That idea was reinforced by Commissioner Donna Freng's suggestion that the county make more of an effort to use inmate labor.

"I think Yankton County has a resource that other entities are using, and we're not using it as well as we could be," she said. "We could get a lot more menial work done cheaper and faster if we took advantage of the inmates who are present here in Yankton.'

She envisions them assisting with janitorial work and tasks like cutting trees or mowing.

Utilizing the inmates would require a small amount of training for county employees overseeing the work.

Commissioners also said they want to get back into the habit of doing annual reviews of non-elected department heads.

'They are all doing a great job," Johnson said. "But it's important that we keep up with where they are at with things and make sure they are going in the direction we have planned for."

Other goals set for the year were getting pictometry and GIS technology into emergency response vehicles, creating a capital improvement plan for the county's road and bridge system, setting aside money annually to address jail upgrades, working on new a comprehensive plan for the Highway 52 corridor, updating the entire county's comprehensive plan, updating the personnel handbook, making an extra payment on the Highway Department shop, building a storage facility for the Ambulance Department, working on the sanitary sewer issue in the Lewis and Clark Lake area, and investigating opportunities to share costs with neighboring counties for some heavy equipment.

The commissioners also discussed the possible impacts of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's corrections reform proposal and the possibility that the Legislature may not approve Medicaid expansion.

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