MARK STEGER SMITH Assistant U.S. Attorney U.S. Attorney's Office 2601 Second Avenue North, Suite 3200 Billings, MT 59101 Ph: (406) 247-4667; Fax: (406) 657-6058 mark.smith3@usdoj.gov

JEAN E. WILLIAMS Acting Assistant Attorney General Environment and Natural Resources Division

SETH M. BARSKY, Chief
JAY GOVINDAN, Assistant Chief
BRIDGET KENNEDY McNEIL, Senior Trial Attorney (CO Bar 34299)
Wildlife and Marine Resources Section
LUTHER L. HAJEK (CO Bar 44303)
Natural Resources Section
999 18th St., South Terrace, Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202
Ph: (303) 844-1484, (303) 844-1376; Fax: (303) 844-1350
bridget.mcneil@usdoj.gov
luke.hajek@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Federal Defendants

# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA GREAT FALLS DIVISION

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BOLD ALLIANCE, et al.,	CV 20-59-BMM
Plaintiffs,	CV 20-39-BIVIIVI
V.	JOINT MOTION FOR STAY
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, et al.,	JOINT MOTION FOR STAY
Defendants,	
and	
TRANSCANADA KEYSTONE PIPELINE, LP, et al.,	
Defendant-Intervenors.	

Defendants U.S. Department of the Interior *et al.* ("Defendants"), Plaintiffs Bold Alliance *et al.*, and Defendant-Intervenors TC Energy *et al.* jointly move for a stay of this case until August 6, 2021.

This case involves the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's ("BLM") approval of a right-of-way for the Keystone XL Pipeline and actions taken by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("FWS") regarding the pipeline. The deadlines in this case have been extended following President Biden's revocation of the 2019 Presidential Permit allowing the pipeline to operate and cross the border. *See* Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, 86 Fed. Reg. 7,037, 7,041 (Jan. 20, 2021). Following prior extensions, Defendants' summary judgment brief is currently scheduled to be filed on June 16, 2021. *See* ECF No. 66.

On June 9, 2021, TC Energy announced the termination of the Keystone XL Pipeline Project. *See* TC Energy Corp. and TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, LP's Notice Regarding Termination of Keystone XL Pipeline, *Indigenous Envtl.*Network v. Trump, No. 4:19-cv-28-BMM, ECF No. 167 ("TC Energy's Status Report"). In its status report, TC Energy stated that "it has definitively terminated the Keystone XL Project" and that it "will not pursue any permits for the Project [or] perform any construction activities in furtherance of the Project now or at any time in the future." *Id.* at 3.

In light of this development, Defendants request this additional extension in order to confer with the parties to discuss whether any further proceedings are necessary. Given the number of parties involved in the multiple cases challenging authorizations relating to the Keystone XL Pipeline, Defendants expect that these discussions will take time, but anticipate that all of the cases could ultimately be dismissed without the need for further proceedings. Plaintiffs agree that the requested extension is reasonable, given that TC Energy has announced that it has no plans to construct the pipeline "now or at any time in the future," TC Energy's Status Report at 3, and in any event TC Energy and Defendants remain obligated to comply with certain notice provisions, including that TC Energy will provide the parties and the Court with sixty days' notice in advance of any construction of the main pipeline or new pump stations.

Defendants have sought and been granted sixty-day stays in two other cases involving the agencies' authorizations relating to the Keystone XL Pipeline, and those stays expire on August 6, 2021. See Order Continuing Stay, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation v. U.S. Department of the Interior, No. 4:20-cv-44-BMM, ECF 81; Order Continuing Stay, Rosebud Sioux Tribe v. U.S. Department of the Interior, No. 4:20-cv-109-BMM, ECF No. 16. In a third case, Defendants have moved for a sixty-day extension of the deadline to respond to the complaint in light of TC Energy's announcement. See Defs.' Fifth

Mot. for an Extension of Time to File a Response to Pls.' Compl., *Indigenous Envtl. Network v. U.S. Bureau of Land Mgmt.*, No. 4:20-cv-115-BMM, ECF No. 15.

In sum, the parties request that the Court stay this case until August 6, 2021.

DATED: June 14, 2021 Respectfully submitted,

MARK STEGER SMITH Assistant U.S. Attorney U.S. Attorney's Office 2601 Second Avenue North, Suite 3200 Billings, MT 59101 Ph: (406) 247-4667; Fax: (406) 657-6058 mark.smith3@usdoj.gov

JEAN E. WILLIAMS
Acting Assistant Attorney General
Environment & Natural Resources Division

SETH M. BARSKY, Chief JAY GOVIDAN, Assistant Chief

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Telephone: (303) 844-1484 Facsimile: (303) 844-1350

E-mail: Bridget.Mcneil@usdoj.gov

/s/ Luther L. Hajek

LUTHER L. HAJEK (CO Bar 44303)
Trial Attorney, Natural Resources Section
United States Department of Justice
Environment and Natural Resources Div.
999 18th St., South Terrace, Suite 370
Denver, CO 80202

Tel: (303) 844-1376 Fax: (303) 844-1350

E-mail: luke.hajek@usdoj.gov

Attorneys for Defendants

### CROWLEY FLECK PLLP

/s/ Jeffery J. Oven
Jeffery J. Oven
Jeffrey M. Roth
490 North 31st Street, Ste. 500
Billings, MT 59103-2529
Telephone: 406-252-3441
Email: joven@crowleyfleck.com
jroth@jcrowleyfleck.com

#### SIDLEY AUSTIN LLP

/s/ Peter C. Whitfield
Peter C. Whitfield
Joseph R. Guerra
1501 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 202-736-8000
Email: pwhitfield@sidley.com
jguerra@sidley.com

Attorney for Defendant-Intervenors TC Energy Corp. et al.

/s/ Jaclyn H. Prange
Jaclyn H. Prange (pro hac vice)
/s/ Cecilia D. Segal
Cecilia D. Segal (pro hac vice)
/s/ Alexander Tom
Alexander Tom (pro hac vice)
Natural Resources Defense Council

111 Sutter Street, Floor 21 San Francisco, CA 94104 (415) 875-6100 jprange@nrdc.org csegal@nrdc.org atom@nrdc.org

Attorneys for Bold Alliance and Natural Resources Defense Council

## /s/ Jared Margolis

Jared Margolis (*pro hac vice*) Center for Biological Diversity 2852 Willamette Street #171 Eugene, OR 97405 (917) 717-6401 jmargolis@biologicaldiversity.org

### /s/ Eric R. Glitzenstein

Eric R. Glitzenstein (*pro hac vice*) Center for Biological Diversity 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 1300 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 849-8401 ext. 109 eglitzenstein@biologicaldiversity.org

Attorneys for Center for Biological Diversity and Friends of the Earth

## /s/ Doug Hayes

Doug Hayes (pro hac vice)

/s/ Eric Huber
Eric Huber (pro hac vice)
Sierra Club Environmental Law Program
1650 38th Street, Suite 102W
Boulder, CO 80301
(303) 449-5595
doug.hayes@sierraclub.org
eric.huber@sierraclub.org

Attorneys for Sierra Club

/s/ Timothy M. Bechtold Timothy M. Bechtold Bechtold Law Firm, PLLC P.O. Box 7051 Missoula, MT 59807 (406) 721-1435 tim@bechtoldlaw.net

Attorney for all Plaintiffs

# **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1(d)(2)(E), the foregoing brief is proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points, and contains 518 words, excluding the tables, caption, signature, certificate of compliance, and certificate of service.

/s/ Luther L. Hajek\_ LUTHER L. HAJEK U.S. Department of Justice

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on June 14, 2021, a copy of the foregoing was served on all counsel of record via the Court's CM/ECF system.

/s/ Luther L. Hajek
LUTHER L. HAJEK
U.S. Department of Justice