

## South Dakota

## Keystone XL Review Goes On Despite Rejection

BY JAMES NORD  
Associated Press

PIERRE — President Barack Obama's decision to reject the Keystone XL pipeline Friday drew a rebuke from South Dakota's congressional delegation but celebration from an environmental group that has fought the project's path through the state.

The state Public Utilities Commission's review of the portion of the pipeline that would run through South Dakota will continue despite the Obama administra-



Daugaard

tion's rejection of TransCanada Corp.'s application to construct the project.

After Obama said he didn't think the project was in the national interest, Republican politicians in South

Dakota were quick to criticize him. "This president clearly worships at the altar of climate change," U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds told *The Associated Press*. "I'd much rather be

buying oil from our friends in North Dakota and our friends in Canada than the Iranians, and I think this president and this secretary of state are going to have a lot of explaining to do."

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in a statement that oil will still be produced in Canada and carried by rail or pipeline elsewhere.

TransCanada's proposed pipeline would carry more than 800,000 barrels of Canadian crude a day to refineries along the Gulf Coast. It would move about 100,000 barrels

of oil daily from the western North Dakota oil patch.

The PUC held hearings during the summer in its review of whether to approve — for the second time in five years — the construction of Keystone's pipeline through South Dakota.

The project prompted opposition from Native American tribes, some landowners and environmental groups who were concerned the pipeline would contaminate water supplies and contribute to pollution.

"Never again will a company

such as TransCanada so seriously underestimate the power of grassroots opposition," Paul Seamans, a member of opposition group Dakota Rural Action, said in a statement. "Thank you President Obama. Let the celebrations begin."

PUC Chairman Chris Nelson said the panel's deliberations about the project are a separate process under state law from decision-making at the federal level and elsewhere. Nelson said the commission could decide before the end of the year.

## Advocacy Group Says TransCanada Should Reapply For Pipeline

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — A Nebraska industry group that supports the Keystone XL pipeline says the project's developer should reapply for presidential approval after the 2016 elections.

Nebraskans for Jobs and Energy spokesman Chris Peterson said Friday that TransCanada should not abandon the project despite President Barack Obama's decision to reject the company's application.

Peterson says the

decision was politically motivated and "temporarily stalls" an important energy infrastructure project.

TransCanada says it remains "absolutely committed" to building the project and was considering filing a new application for permits. The company has previously raised the possibility of suing the United States to recoup the more than \$2 billion it says it has already spent on development.

## NE Gov. Ricketts Criticizes Keystone XL Decision

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts is criticizing President Barack Obama's decision to reject a permit for the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Ricketts said in a statement Friday that the project would have created jobs and generated tax revenue for counties. The governor has said he supports the pipeline.

Ricketts says the deci-

sion was politically motivated, and contradicts the findings of earlier U.S. State Department research which concluded that the pipeline wouldn't have a major impact on greenhouse gases.

Nebraska has played a key role in the debate over the project because of strong opposition from landowners and activists who tried to block the pipeline.

## A Look At Keystone Pipeline's Long Road To Rejection

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's decision to reject TransCanada's application to build the Keystone XL pipeline was seven years in the making. Since the company first proposed the 1,179-mile pipeline, the project has been studied, stalled, slammed and hyped — all amid intense political pressure from powerful interests on both sides of the debate. Here's a look at the Keystone XL pipeline's long road to rejection:

Sept. 19, 2008 — TransCanada submits an application for a presidential permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. The pipeline would extend from Canada's tar sands through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska and connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to specialized refineries along the Texas Gulf Coast. Because the pipeline crosses the border, the State Department must determine whether it is in the nation's interest.

Oct. 15, 2010 — As the permit is reviewed, then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the department is "inclined" to approve project. "We're either going to be dependent on dirty oil from the Gulf or dirty oil from Canada," she said. The project begins to galvanize the environmental movement to pressure the administration to act on climate change. Republicans and other project supporters argue the project will create

## Pipeline rejected

The Obama Administration rejected the proposed Keystone XL crude oil pipeline that would have connected Canada to existing pipelines in the U.S.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE  
Map locating the proposed path of the Keystone XL pipeline.

jobs and juice the economy.

Aug. 26, 2011 — The State Department issues its final environmental impact statement determining "there would be no significant impacts to most resources along the proposed

project corridor."

Nov. 10, 2011 — Amid intense political pressure, President Barack Obama announces a delay pushing off a decision until after his reelection campaign. The administration says other potential routes through Nebraska needed to be studied.

Dec. 23, 2011 — Congress tries to force Obama's hand by passing legislation requiring approval of the Keystone XL pipeline within 60 days unless the president determines the project does not serve the national interest. Weeks later, Obama rejected the application, but allowed TransCanada to reapply.

May 4, 2012 — TransCanada reapplies and restarts the review process.

March 1, 2013 — The State Department issues an environmental review that raises no major objections to the Keystone XL oil pipeline and says other options to get the oil from Canada to Gulf Coast refineries are worse for climate change.

June 25, 2013 — Obama declares he will only approve the project if it doesn't worsen carbon pollution. "Our national interest would be served only if this project does not significantly exacerbate the problem of carbon pollution," Obama says in a speech declaring that fighting climate change will be a major priority during his second term.

Jan. 31, 2014 — The State Department releases another

final environmental impact statement, again voicing no major environmental objections to the project.

Feb. 19, 2014 — A Nebraska judge overturns the state law that allowed the pipeline, throwing the project into legal limbo.

April 18, 2014 — The State Department announces it is again delaying its review, citing the legal dispute over the Nebraska route.

Feb. 11, 2015 — Congress again tries to push the Obama administration to decide on the permit by passing legislation forcing the decision and sending it to the White House. Obama vetoes the bill days later.

Sept. 22, 2015 — Clinton, now seeking the Democratic nomination for president, says she opposes construction of the Keystone pipeline.

Nov. 2, 2015 — As it appears increasingly likely that Obama will reject the pipeline, TransCanada asks the administration to suspend its application. The State Department reviews the request for a day and rejects it.

Nov. 6, 2015 — Obama announces he is rejecting the permit to build the Keystone pipeline. The project is not in the national interest, he says. "America is now a global leader when it comes to taking serious action to fight climate change. And frankly, approving this project would have undercut that global leadership," he says.

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