The State Department's inspector general has begun an investigation into the permit process for the Keystone XL pipeline. Three senators and at least 10 House members sought the review last month, following news reports about the department's choice of contractor, Cardno Entrix, to conduct an environmental review of the project. The reports indicated that Cardno Entrix has listed pipeline developer TransCanada as a major client. The lawmakers asked for the inspector general's review to examine several questions, including whether TransCanada improperly influenced the selection of Cardno Entrix as the contractor for the environmental impact statement and any ongoing financial relationship between the two companies.

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