

Obama made wrong decision on Keystone pipeline

By Editorial Board

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CORPUS CHRISTI — The oil industry has been using pipelines since 1865. It has learned a lot since building that first, wooden nine-mile line to bypass the price-predatory teamsters of the day. Pipeline safety has been shaped by history, market forces and government regulation into the safest way to transport petroleum product. Crossing a mountain range or going under a river or bay is routine these days.

The proposed 1,700-mile Keystone XL pipeline from Canada to Texas — the one rejected Wednesday by President Barack Obama — is remarkable for its economic and geopolitical potential. It's unremarkable by today's standards as a human technological feat or as an environmental risk.

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