

US rejects permit for TransCanada's Keystone XL oil pipeline

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The US State Department Wednesday rejected TransCanada's application to build the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, saying Congress gave it an impossible deadline to conclude the environmental review.

More than three years after the company applied for the presidential permit, the State Department said it could not finish the permitting process by Congress' February 21 deadline. But the department said the finding "does not preclude any subsequent permit application or applications for subsequent projects."

President Barack Obama said he agreed with the State Department's conclusion.

"This announcement is not a judgment on the merits of the pipeline, but the arbitrary nature of a deadline that prevented the State Department from gathering the information necessary to approve the project and protect the American people," Obama said in a statement. "I'm disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but it does not change my administration's commitment to American-made energy that creates jobs and reduces our dependence on oil."

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