

White House hails scaled-down Keystone pipeline plan

Oil industry still seeks full project approval

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President Obama points to the place where he fired a marshmallow gun while speaking Feb. 27, 2012, at the White House before the National Governors Association. (Associated Press) President Obama points to the place where he fired a marshmallow gun while speaking Feb. 27, 2012, at the White House before the National Governors Association. (Associated Press)

The White House on Monday hailed the news that a scaled-down portion of the Keystone XL pipeline that would stretch from Oklahoma to Texas will move ahead, but the president's critics said the move only underscored the need to approve the entire Canada-to-Texas project.

Calgary-based TransCanada, which is building the pipeline, said it could move ahead with the southern leg of the proposed 1,700-mile oil pipeline because it did not cross the U.S. border, thus did not need Mr. Obama's approval. The shorter pipeline is expected to cost roughly \$2.3 billion and create some 4,000 jobs and will be completed next year.

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