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Obama administration rejects Keystone pipeline

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Eco Catholic

Juliet Eilperin and Steven Mufson of the Washington Post are reporting:

Obama administration rejects Keystone pipeline

President Obama, declaring that he would not bow to congressional pressure, announced Wednesday that he was rejecting a Canadian firm's application for a permit to build and operate the Keystone XL pipeline, a massive project that would have stretched from Canada's oil sands to refineries in Texas.

Obama said that a Feb. 21 deadline set by Congress as part of the two-month payroll tax cut extension had made it impossible to do an adequate review of the pipeline project proposed by TransCanada.

The controversial Keystone XL pipeline has been under review for more than three years. Environmental groups have argued that the extraction of oil sands contributed to climate changes and the pipeline itself posed leak risks.

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, the president said in a statement.

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