President Barack Obama announces his decision to reject TransCanada's permit to build the Keystone XL pipeline, which would have moved crude oil from Canada's tar sands to Gulf Coast refineries.

Obama said the pipeline was not in the national interest of the U.S. Shipping 800,000
barrels a day of particularly dirty crude oil through the country would have undercut America’s leadership in fighting climate change, he said. Meanwhile, the pipeline would not create a meaningful number of new jobs or enhance America’s energy security, he contended.

Business groups strongly disagreed. Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute, said the president’s decision won’t stop production of crude oil from Canada’s tar sands – it will only make it more expensive for American refineries to get it. Instead of being transported by pipeline, it will be shipped by train and barge, and that will create more greenhouse gas emissions than the pipeline would, he said.

Gerard said the Keystone XL pipeline’s rejection, after seven years of study, also could lead builders of other energy infrastructure projects to wonder if they’ll run into regulatory roadblocks as well.

“This has a chilling effect on all those other investments,” Gerard said.

Environmentalists who opposed the Keystone XL pipeline hope so.

“The win against Keystone XL is just the beginning, because this fight has helped inspire resistance to a thousand other projects,” said May Boeve, executive director of 350.org, an organization fighting climate change. “Everywhere you look, people are shutting down fracking wells, stopping coal export facilities and challenging new pipelines. If Big Oil thinks that after Keystone XL the protesters are going home, they’re going to be sorely surprised.”

“We urge President Obama to reject the increasing number of natural gas pipelines proposed and being built across the country,” said Todd Larsen, Green America’s executive co-director for consumer and corporate engagement. “Those pipelines are also dangerous, serve to maintain our reliance on fossil fuels, and leak methane – the most potent climate change gas.”
SUGGESTED READING

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Keystone XL pipeline gets boost from environmental review (Video)

ENERGY
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Oil industry tired of waiting for Keystone XL pipeline, but it won’t give up

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PuppyLoverNews.com

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House sends Keystone XL pipeline bill to Obama, who’ll veto it

by Taboola