

Tales from the Rural Patrol

Due to a technical error, this week’s ‘Tales’ will be included in the March 4 edition. We regret the error.

Obama vetoed Keystone XL oil pipeline bill on Tuesday

By
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Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)— President Barack Obama will veto a Republican-backed bill on Tuesday that would have approved construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, the White House said, putting a freeze on a top GOP priority — at least for now.

The contentious legislation arrived at the White House on Tuesday morning from Capitol Hill, where Republicans pushed the bill quickly through both chambers in their first burst of activity since taking full control of Congress. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Obama would veto it in private “without any drama or fanfare or delay.”

Obama’s veto notwithstanding, the White House said there was no “final disposition” on whether a permit will be issued for the pipeline, which has become a major flashpoint in the national debate over climate change. Rather, Obama is rebuffing a congressional attempt to circumvent the executive branch’s “longstanding process for evaluating whether projects like this are in the best interests of the country,” Earnest said.

The move sends the politically charged issue back to Congress, where Republicans have yet to show they can muster the two-thirds majority in both chambers needed to override Obama’s veto. Sen. John Hoeven, the bill’s chief GOP sponsor, said Republicans are about four votes short in the Senate and need about 11 more in the House.

Although the Keystone bill is the first that Obama has vetoed since Republicans won full control of Congress in November, it was not likely to be the last. GOP lawmakers are lining up legislation rolling back Obama’s actions on health care, immigration and financial regulation that Obama has promised to similarly reject.

First proposed more than six years ago, the Keystone XL pipeline project has sat in limbo ever since, awaiting a permit required by the federal government because it would cross an international boundary. The pipeline would connect Canada’s tar sands with refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast that specialize in processing heavy crude oil.

Republicans and the energy industry say the \$8 billion project would create jobs, spur growth and increase America’s independence from Mideast energy sources. Democrats and

environmental groups have sought to make the pipeline a poster child for the type of dirty energy sources they say is exacerbating global warming.

For his part, Obama says his administration is still weighing the pipeline’s merits, but has repeatedly threatened to veto any attempts by lawmakers to make the decision for him.

The GOP-controlled House passed the bill earlier in February on a 270-152 vote, following weeks of debate and tweaks in the Senate to insert language stating that climate change is real and not a hoax. Republican leaders in Congress delayed sending the bill to the White House until they returned from a weeklong recess, ensuring they would be on hand to denounce the president when he vetoed the bill.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said the looming veto showed how the White House refuses to listen and find common ground with Republicans.

“It’s the same kind of top-down, tone-deaf leadership we’ve come to expect and we were elected to stop,” the GOP leaders wrote in an op-ed article Tuesday in *USA Today*.

Republican leaders were mulling a number of potential next steps. In addition to trying to

peel off enough Democrats to override Obama’s veto — an unlikely proposition — Republicans were considering inserting Keystone into other critical legislation dealing with energy, spending or infrastructure in hopes that Obama would be less likely to veto those priorities, said Hoeven, R-N.D.

Obama last wielded his veto power in October 2010, nixing a relatively mundane bill dealing with recognition of documents notarized out of state. With the Keystone bill, Obama’s veto count stands at just three — far fewer than most of his predecessors. Yet his veto threats have been piling up rapidly since Republicans took control of Congress, numbering more than a dozen so far this year.

The president has said he won’t approve Keystone if it’s found to significantly increase U.S. emissions of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas blamed for global warming. A State Department analysis found that the tar sands would be developed one way or another, meaning construction of the pipeline wouldn’t necessarily affect emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency earlier this month called for that analysis has to be revisited, arguing that a drop in oil prices may have altered the equation.

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8800 blk DEER CREEK RD, Open Burn
1500 blk DICK GEORGE RD, Medical Emergency

2/19/2015 Thursday

100 blk TURNAGAIN DR, Medical Emergency
500 blk W RIVER ST, Fire Alarm

2/20/2015 Friday

8400 blk TAKILMA RD, Lift Assist

2/21/2015 Saturday

400 blk S JUNCTION AVE, Open Burn
N REDWOOD HWY / W PALMER ST, Medical Emergency
27600 blk REDWOOD HWY, Open Burn

2/22/2015 Sunday

300 blk BURGUNDY LN, Medical Emergency



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P

A

S

S

Pull the pin

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Squeeze the handle and release the extinguishing agent

Sweep the extinguisher from side to side across the base of the fire until it appears to be out

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DOWN

1. Exaggerate

2. Flit (about)

3. Subtleties of meaning

4. Knight's blade

6. Eventually became (5,2)

7. Bamboo-eating mammal

8. Neatness

10. Rosiness

13. Ladies

17. Trafalgar Square monument, ... Column

18. Encourage (3,2)

19. Treading heavily

21. Steal limelight from

22. Peaceful

23. Clever puzzle

25. Terrible

27. Bearing weapons

31. Little child

Crossword Puzzle courtesy of



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ACROSS

1. Church musician

5. Dictator

9. Attempted

11. Bushranger, ... Kelly

12. US shares index, ... Jones

14. Yielded

15. Storm water pipe

16. Misunderstands

20. Dressing-down (6-7)

24. Castle ditches

26. Reproductive organ

28. Named before marriage

29. Artificial conception (1,1,1)

30. Absorbs into whole

32. Psychic, Uri ...

33. Instructor

4					9			
1						5		2
		5				6	8	
				1	2		5	
	5						3	
	7		5	6				
	6	4				2		
2		9						1
			8					4