



## **United Association applauds State Department's decision to advance Keystone XL Pipeline permit to next step**

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ANNAPOLIS, Md. - General President William P. Hite and the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada applauds the U.S. Department of State announcement today to move forward with a next step for the Keystone XL pipeline permit.

The State Department announced earlier today that it expects to request public comment on a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed pipeline. The public comment period is expected to begin with a Federal Register notice to be issued in mid-April.

“The Keystone XL Pipeline will play a vital role in putting deserving men and women to work in this difficult economy. It will also help promote U.S. energy independence,” General President Hite said. “We are sincerely grateful for the State Department’s prudent decision to take the next step towards final approval.”

Hite was one of four union presidents, representing 2.6 million working men and women, who sent a letter in October to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urging approval for the project. The Keystone XL is a \$7 billion privately funded project that is expected to stimulate \$20 billion in new spending for the U.S. economy, spur the creation of 118,000 jobs and generate more than \$585 million in state and local taxes for the states along the pipeline route.

The unions have executed a project labor agreement to provide the Keystone XL project with a capable, well-trained and ready workforce in the United States. It is a planned 1,959-mile, 36-inch crude oil pipeline stretching from Hardisty, Alberta and moving southeast through Saskatchewan, Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska.

It will link up with a portion of the Keystone Pipeline that will be built through Kansas to Cushing, Oklahoma and facilitate take away capacity from U.S. hubs located on the pipeline. The pipeline will then continue on through Oklahoma to a delivery point near existing terminals in Nederland, Texas to serve the Port Arthur, Texas marketplace.

Since the beginning of the process, the State Department has held more than 20 public comment meetings along the pipeline route in Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas, as well as in Washington, D.C. Once this comment period begins, the public will have 45 days to comment on the Supplemental Draft EIS, officials from the State Department said. Following issuance of a Final EIS, the State Department will solicit public comment and host a public meeting in Washington, D.C., before it makes a determination on whether issuance of this permit is in the U.S. national interest.

A final decision is expected by the end of the year, officials said.

### **About the United Association**

The United Association represents more than 340,000 plumbers, pipe fitters, sprinkler fitters and service technicians in North America. For more information, please visit [www.ua.org](http://www.ua.org).