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(Neb)-Appeals Court Allows Keystone XL Construction To Start

By: John Axtell Posted at: 06/09/2019 10:34 AM

BILLINGS, MT. (AP) - A federal appeals court panel has lifted an injunction from a district judge in Montana blocking construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline, but it's not clear whether the Thursday ruling by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will have any immediate effect.

That's partly because pipeline developer TC Energy, formerly TransCanada, has said it's too late to begin work this year and partly because Keystone XL opponents have filed new legal challenges.

The original lawsuit brought by environmental and Native American groups opposed to the pipeline challenged the original permit for the \$8-billion dollar project approved by President Trump in 2017, saying the environmental review by government was inadequate.

Trump revoked that permit earlier this year and issued a new one to take its place, which Justice Department attorneys argued makes the legal challenge moot. The 3-judge appeals court panel agreed.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs accuse Trump of trying to skirt the law with the revoke-and-approve maneuver, and they filed another, ongoing lawsuit to block the new presidential permit.