

5.0 ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the analysis of the alternatives that were identified by the U.S. Department of State (Department) as reasonable alternatives for carrying forward for full analysis in the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Supplemental EIS). The process used to identify and screen potentially reasonable alternatives was described in Section 2.2, Description of Reasonable Alternatives. Several alternatives, including both route alternatives and intermodal options, were eliminated from further consideration in this screening process. In addition to the proposed Project, alternatives carried forward for analysis include the No Action Alternative and two major route alternatives. The No Action Alternative includes three scenarios:

- Status quo scenario;
- Rail/pipeline scenario; and
- Rail/tanker scenario.

The major route alternatives include the following:

- The Keystone XL 2011 Steele City Segment Alternative (2011 Steele City Alternative), as proposed in the 2011 Final EIS, is provided as a reference point to illustrate the differences between it and the proposed Project and other alternatives; and
- I-90 Corridor Alternative.

The alternatives analysis relied on information obtained through independent research and analyses conducted by the Department and its third-party contractor, information provided to the Department, state permitting applications (including supplemental submittals), and information and comments provided during scoping for the Supplemental EIS. The analysis of the No Action Alternative is described in Section 5.1, and the analysis of the major route alternatives is described in Section 5.2.

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