

5.0 ALTERNATIVES

This chapter describes the analysis of the alternatives that were identified by the U.S. Department of State (the Department) as reasonable for carrying forward for full analysis in this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Final Supplemental EIS). The process used to identify and screen potential alternatives is described in Section 2.2, Description of 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 the Status Quo Baseline and three scenarios:

- Rail Direct to the Gulf Coast 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 and the public comment period for the Draft Supplemental EIS. The analysis of the No Action Alternative is described in Section 5.1, the analysis of the major route alternatives is described in Section 5.2, and a comparison of the scenarios and alternatives to the proposed Project is described in Section 5.3.

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