

NO DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE!

Stand with Standing Rock!

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BACKGROUND:

The Dakota Access Pipeline is currently under construction, proposed to carry fracked oil from the Bakken fields in North Dakota 1,72 miles to Patoka, Illinois. On Tuesday, July 26, 2016, the US Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") approved the water crossing permits for the pipeline, including the crossing of the Missouri River just a half mile north of the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. The permitting process violated multiple federal laws, basic principles of sovereignty, and requirements for free, prior, and informed consent outlined in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In response, the Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, and Yankton Sioux Tribes filed lawsuits against the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the people went to the land to stop construction equipment with their bodies. A historic grassroots resistance movement has erupted at the site of the original spirit camp, established in April on the reservation, to stop the pipeline through prayer and non-violent direct action. The encampment at Standing Rock has blossomed as many thousands of people representing hundreds of tribes and First Nations have come from all over the world to stand in solidarity.



THE PROBLEMS:

The Dakota Access pipeline was approved very quickly by four states and the federal government. The US Army Corps's rubber stamp job undermined major federal environmental and historic preservation laws, as well as federal trust responsibilities guaranteed in the 1851 and 1868 United States treaties with the L/D/Nakota tribes.

- **Inadequate Environmental Review** - The DAPL crosses the Missouri River and the Mississippi River, from which 18 million people get drinking water. Spills and leaks would impact all of us, but the Army Corps did not perform an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as required by law.
- **Lack of Tribal Consultation** - Dakota Access LLC and the US Army Corps never formally completed nation-to-nation consultation with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Yankton Sioux Tribe.
- **Environmental Racism** - The original route ran just north of Bismarck, but was moved downstream, to cross the Missouri just over a mile upstream of the water intake valves for the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. This clearly and intentionally places disproportionate risk on Native people.
- **Ignoring Sacred Places** - The permit process did not include a new survey of impacted cultural resources, including the concentration of sacred places - village sites, burial grounds, Sundance grounds, etc - at the river crossing, a traditional trading ground of many different tribal Nations.
- **Illegal Permit Process** - The US Army Corps used Nationwide Permit 12 to illegally segment the project into hundreds of easily-approved pieces and circumvent the major protections of the Clean Water Act. NWP 12 was designed for boat ramps, not pipelines.
- **Fracking in the Bakken** - DAPL would carry fracked oil from the Bakken where communities are plagued with radioactive contamination and epidemics of traffic deaths, drug related crime, and sexual trafficking.
- **Unfair Tactics** - Many ND landowners have reported intimidation, fraud, and harassment from the company during easement negotiations.
- **Diverting Surface Water** - ND farmers have been alarmed that DAPL is allowed to divert surface water away from private lands and agriculture for use in the construction and hydrostatic testing processes.
- **Bad Investment** - The Dakota Access is a pipeline from nowhere. Due to persistent low oil prices, the active rig count in the Bakken is down 85% from its peak in 2014, and many hubs of the oil boom are now ghost towns.



TRIBES, LANDOWNERS, AND ALLIES FIGHT BACK:

Soon after the US Army Corps issued the permits for the Dakota Access pipeline to cross the Missouri River, the Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, and Yankton Sioux Tribes filed lawsuits based on the Army Corps's violations of environmental and historic preservation laws. Standing Rock Tribal Chair Dave Archambault II spoke in front of the United Nations asking for intervention. Hundreds of tribes and many major US cities passed formal resolutions of support. A letter of support was signed by thousands of archaeologists and anthropologists, echoing the call for protection of cultural resources. On September 9, despite a contrary decision by the US District Court Judge, 3 agencies of the Obama Administration ordered a partial halt to construction of the pipeline while they reevaluated the permits. Meanwhile, 5 different groups of landowners have sued the state government in Iowa, mostly on private property rights grounds, contesting the use of eminent domain by a private corporation. Iowans have also gathered on the land to physically block construction through civil disobedience. And hundreds of solidarity actions have sprung up across the globe, targeting banks involved in the project, partner oil companies, and government offices.

THE HISTORIC INTER-TRIBAL GATHERING AT STANDING ROCK

The original spirit camp to stop the Dakota Access pipeline, the Sacred Stone Camp, was established on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation on April 1, 2016. In August, the encampment blossomed as thousands of people representing hundreds of tribes and First Nations, plus countless allies, came from all over the world to stand in solidarity. By September, over 300 tribal flags lined the entrance to camp, a visual display of inter-tribal unity like never before. In just the first 2 months, almost 100 water protectors have been arrested by local Sherriffs in demonstrations and non-violent direct actions to physically stop construction. The State of North Dakota has responded with excessive force, surveillance, militarization, and repression, violating civil liberties and denying the encampment basic public services by declaring an unwarranted State of Emergency. A military-style checkpoint blocks traffic from Bismarck to the Reservation, planes and helicopters fly daily, and peaceful ceremonies on the land have been aggressively disbanded using armored vehicles and cops in full riot gear, often carrying firearms with live ammunition. On September 4, the day after the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe added to their lawsuit the locations of recently identified sacred sites, the company, Dakota Access, intentionally bulldozed those sites in hopes of destroying the evidence before the judge could rule. Hundreds of protectors marched towards the equipment and were attacked by hired private security guards wielding pepper spray and vicious dogs. Dozens were injured, including women and children, while the police waited patiently on the road and watched it all happen. As winter approaches, the encampment is preparing new structures, piling firewood, and preserving food. The donations continue to come in, and people are digging in for the long haul. It is clear that this is not just about a single pipeline anymore.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Donate to Sacred Stone Camp, Red Warrior Camp, or the Sacred Stone or Red Warrior Legal Defense Funds
2. Donate to supporting organizations like Honor the Earth or the Indigenous Environmental Network
3. Share content on social media and start conversations with friends and neighbors
4. Sign petitions
5. Write a letter to the editor
6. Contact your elected officials and voice your concerns
7. Come to the encampment at Standing Rock and help out
8. Organize a supply drop for the camps
9. Join a solidarity action near you - www.nodaplsolidarity.org



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