

<http://gozamos.com/2016/09/12-ways-you-can-support-the-dakota-pipeline-protestors-at-sacred-stone-camp/>

Ilene Palacios 11/20/2016 10:20:17

Since April, Native American activists and environmentalists have been protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), which would run nearly 1,172 miles and carry over half a million barrels of crude oil a day from the Bakken Oil Fields in North Dakota to refineries in Pataoka, Illinois. A part of this \$3.8 billion pipeline is proposed to be built underneath the Missouri River, a water source for millions of people that is near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota. Just outside Cannon Ball, North Dakota is where a center of spiritual and cultural opposition to DAPL, Sacred Stone Camp, is located. The name of the spirit camp is a reference to “Sacred Rock,” which is English translation of Inyaaŋ Wakháŋagapi Othí, the original name of the area.

Though DAPL would run through treaty lands and potentially desecrate hundreds of archaeological sites that are significant for Native American populations, there was almost no consultation of tribal leadership by the company trying to building the pipeline, Energy Transfer, and the project was still approved by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. The threat to water and the larger environment is real. There have been over fifty oil pipeline accidents in the U.S. in the past two years alone, which led to spills, a few deaths, several injuries and destruction of water and wildlife, not to mention the release of toxic, flammable chemicals and carcinogens into the ground, air and water.

For seeking to protect their water, protestors at Sacred Stone Camp have endured intimidation and harassment by Energy Transfer’s private security and police; dozens of arrests; violent attacks with dogs and pepper spray; removal of their water supply; and intentional destruction of burial sites, prayer sites and culturally significant artifacts—the last of which prompted North Dakota’s Standing Rock Sioux to file a temporary restraining order that is currently halting DAPL construction in the area. It is not a reach to consider the actions of the Energy Transfer and the U.S. government as a continuation of genocidal practices against Native American people.

## Canadian First Nations, U.S. tribes form alliance to stop oil pipelines

### Agreement signed in Montreal, Vancouver on Thursday

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This Sept. 19, 2011 aerial photo shows an oil sands mine facility near Fort McMurray, Alta. (Jeff McIntosh/Canadian Press)

First Nations communities from Canada and the northern United States signed a treaty on Thursday to jointly fight proposals to build more pipelines to carry crude from Alberta's oil sands, saying further development would damage the environment.

The treaty, signed in Montreal and Vancouver, came as the politics around pipelines have become increasingly sensitive in North America, with the U.S. Justice Department intervening last week to delay construction of a contentious pipeline in North Dakota.

The Treaty Alliance Against Tar Sands Expansion was signed by 50 aboriginal groups in North America, who also plan to oppose tanker and rail projects in both countries, they said in a statement.

Targets include projects proposed by Kinder Morgan Inc, TransCanada Corp and Enbridge Inc.

While aboriginal groups have long opposed oil sands development, the treaty signals a more coordinated approach to fight proposals.

Among the treaty's signatories is the Standing Rock Sioux tribe who opposes the Dakota pipeline.

"What this treaty means is that from Quebec, we will work with allies in (British Columbia) to make sure that the Kinder Morgan pipeline does not pass," Kanesatake Grand Chief Serge Simon said in the statement.

"And we will also work with our tribal allies in Minnesota as they take on Enbridge's Line 3 expansion, and we know they'll help us do the same against Energy East," he said, referring to TransCanada's plan to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude per day from Alberta to Canada's East Coast.

The statement did not specify what actions the groups would take to stop development.

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association, whose members include the targeted companies, said in a statement that the industry would listen to aboriginal concerns.

"The fact remains there is a critical need for pipelines in Canada," the association said, noting that they are the safest and most environmentally friendly way to move oil and gas.

Canada is assessing oil pipeline proposals as the country's energy-rich province Alberta reels from a crash in prices, partly due to insufficient means of moving oil to lucrative international markets.

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JR American Horse, left, raises his fist with others while leading a march earlier this month to the Dakota Access Pipeline site in North Dakota. The federal government on Friday ordered work to stop on one segment of the project.

# Feds stop work on pipeline

NEAR THE STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. (AP) — The federal government stepped into the fight over the Dakota Access oil pipeline Friday, ordering work to stop on one segment of the project in North Dakota and asking the Texas-based company building it to “voluntarily pause” action on a wider span that an American Indian tribe says holds sacred artifacts.

The government’s order came minutes after a judge rejected a request by the Standing Rock Sioux to halt construction of the \$3.8 billion, four-state pipeline.

The tribe, whose cause has drawn thousands to join their protest, has challenged the Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to grant permits for the pipeline at more than 200 water crossings. Tribal leaders allege that the project violates several federal laws and will harm water supplies. The tribe also says ancient sites have been disturbed during construction.

The tribe’s chairman, Dave Archambault II, spoke at the state Capitol in front of several hundred people, some carrying signs that read “Respect Our Water” and “Water Is Sacred.” He called the federal announcement “a beautiful start” and told reporters that the dispute is a long way from over.

“A public policy win is a lot stronger than a judicial win,” he said. “Our message is heard.”

A joint statement from the Army and the Departments of Justice and the Interior said construction

bordering or under Lake Oahe would not go forward and asked the Texas-based pipeline builder, Energy Transfer Partners, to stop work 20 miles to the east and west of the lake while the government reconsiders “any of its previous decisions.”

The statement also said the case “highlighted the need for a serious discussion” about nationwide reforms “with respect to considering tribes’ views on these types of infrastructure projects.”

Vicki Granado, a spokeswoman for the company, said it had no comment.

The president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council said he was disappointed with the government’s decision to intervene and called it “flagrant overreach” that will result in more oil being moved by trucks and trains.

The 1,172-mile project will carry nearly a half-million barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota’s oil fields through South Dakota and Iowa to an existing pipeline in Patoka, Illinois.

In denying the tribe’s request for a temporary injunction, U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington said that the court “does not lightly countenance any depredation of lands that hold significance” to the tribe and that, given the federal government’s history with the tribe, the court scrutinized the permitting process “with particular care.”

Nonetheless, the judge wrote, the tribe “has not demonstrated that an injunction is warranted here.”