



The Bakken pipeline is NOT a done deal. We're stopping it here!

The Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition is a growing grassroots coalition of landowners, community members, non-profit organizations, and interest groups united to stop the construction of the proposed Bakken Pipeline. Join us!

What is the Bakken pipeline?

- In summer of 2014, Dakota Access (DA) announced its plans to construct a pipeline carrying up to 570,000 barrels a day of fracked crude oil from the Bakken region of ND to Patoka, IL. DA is a limited liability corporation, a subsidiary of Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners.
- The pipeline would be 1,134 miles long, 30 inches in diameter, 24 to 48 inches underground. The spill potential is almost 1 million gallons in just over an hour.
- The pipeline would stretch 346 miles through 18 Iowa counties, including Mahaska County, and cross under 17 of our major waterways, including the Missouri, Des Moines, South Skunk, and Mississippi Rivers.
- A 150-foot construction right of way and a permanent 50 foot easement are needed for the pipeline. No buildings or trees are permitted on the 50 foot easement.

Why are we concerned?

- Lack of inspections and highly corrosive material make the risk of a spill very real. Bakken oil is extremely volatile. In October 2013, a spill of Bakken crude from a pipeline in Tioga, ND resulted in over 20,600 barrels--equivalent to 865,200 gallons--of oil leaking into a farm field. The event was one of the largest onshore oil spills in recent history and covered over 7 acres. Soil was contaminated 30 feet underground.
- The Bakken shale boom exploits land and people. The production of this oil has serious harmful environmental impacts including water depletion, creation of toxic air emissions and wastewater, and an exponential increase in carbon emissions through the production of methane, which continues to create climate change. The construction of this pipeline across IA endorses the environmental destruction at the Bakken shale extraction sites, which impact the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in ND, and the escalating violence in the Bakken area.
- Experts have found the pipeline puts our land, economy, community health, and future generations at risk. Dr. Tom Fenton, retired soil scientist at Iowa State University, wrote an extensive report (posted on our website) about how the pipeline construction alone will damage IA's most valuable resource--our soil. Dave Swenson, economist at Iowa State University, has written a detailed overview (posted on our website) of the inflated job numbers and Iowa landowners have argued about the loss of their livelihood. Carolyn Raffensperger, executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network, has written legal analyses and analyses of the company's shareholder reports (posted on our website) finding that Iowans will be left with the cleanup costs of this project and that the project violates our public good as citizens of Iowa.



- Oil transported by the pipeline would be sold on the global market. Obama has eased restrictions on the export of crude oil. There is no evidence, except the promise made by DA, that this fracked oil would contribute in any way to “energy independence.”
- The Iowa Utility Board’s (IUB) approval of the pipeline permit is an egregious abuse of eminent domain, which, by law, only can be granted when there is significant “public convenience and necessity.”
- Current Iowa requires DA to provide a surety bond of just \$250,000 to cover potential damages. The IUB required that DA have \$26 million in insurance coverage, which is inadequate. A single spill that pumped one million gallons of crude oil into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan has already cost over one BILLION dollars. While IUB created an additional insurance requirement, our legal counsel finds that the policy submitted by DA has a number of critical loopholes that leave our state liable.
- Iowa is a renewable energy leader. We do not need a crude oil pipeline. According to the former NASA climatologist, Dr. James Hansen, who was the first to address congress on climate change nearly 30 years ago, 80% of fossil fuel reserves already discovered must remain in the ground if we are to avoid cataclysmic climate change.

What is the current state of the pipeline project?

- ND, SD, and IL have each granted DA a construction permit. Construction has begun in ND despite the Corps of Engineers permits still under review for water crossings.
- In March 2016, the 3 governor-appointed members of the IUB voted 3-0 to grant DA their request for a hazardous liquid pipeline permit and the power to use eminent domain to condemn land needed for the route. Landowners would be paid market rate for easements to put in the pipeline. Condemnation hearings have begun in IA.
- The pipeline now requires a permit from the US Army Corps. We demand that the US Army Corps require a full environmental impact statement of the entirety of the pipeline route and to reject the pipeline permit.
- Iowa landowners are standing up to Big Oil and have sued the state for abuse of eminent domain, arguing that the DA pipeline is not a public utility and does not serve “public convenience and necessity.”
- A Native American archeological complex with burial sites was found in the pipeline’s path in NW Iowa.
- Members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe have established a camp on the headwaters of the Missouri River in protest of the pipeline.

How can I help stop the pipeline project?

- Join with one of our local or state-based coalition member groups to take part in actions and events across the state this summer.
- Join our facebook page and sign up for our database list to share information and learn about upcoming events.
- Write to your county supervisors and local/national legislators to let them know your concerns about this pipeline.
- Write letters to the editor of local and state papers.
- Sign our petition calling upon the US Army Corps to follow federal law and ultimately to deny the permit.