Historic Victory at Standing Rock

Dear colleagues,

As so many of you know, there is good news to share from Standing Rock, North Dakota. On December 4th the United States Army Corps of Engineers announced that it will not grant an easement for the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota. This is a historic victory for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and all those protesting the pipeline. As an article in the Huffington Post explains, “The Obama administration has halted construction of the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline amid growing protests that were expected to draw some 2,000 U.S. military veterans. The Army announced Sunday that it has denied the final easement required for the $3.8 billion project to cross under Lake Oahe in North Dakota. Instead, it will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the impacts and explore alternative routes, it said.”

This is a significant moment in U.S. history when a peaceful, non-violent gathering of Native American peoples prevailed against great odds to halt a pipeline that could damage sacred sites as well as land and water. As John Grim notes in a recent interview, by calling themselves “Water Protectors,” the protestors of the pipeline affirm the “traditional values of these Lakota people who call themselves Hunkpapa.” Furthermore, those who come to protest at Standing Rock are given nonviolence training that is rooted in Lakota traditional values.

We want to share a striking statement from a ceremony that took place December 5th where veterans joined Native elders to ask for forgiveness. Gen. Wesley Clark Jr. said: "Many of us, me particularly, are from the units that have hurt you over the many years. We came. We fought you. We took your land. We signed treaties that we broke. We stole minerals from your sacred hills. We blasted the faces of our presidents onto your sacred mountain. When we took still more land and then we took your children and then we tried to make your language and we tried to eliminate your language that God gave you, and the Creator gave you. We didn’t respect you, we polluted your Earth, we’ve hurt you in so many ways but we’ve come to say that we are sorry. We are at your service and we beg for your forgiveness.” You can watch an abbreviated version of the hour and a half ceremony here.

The protest against the Dakota Access Pipeline has been largest gathering of Native Americans in the last 100 years and has included as many as 7000 people. This began in April and has drawn more attention in recent months. For the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and supporters their activities have been centered on prayer, non-violence, and protection of water in this region and across the area that the pipeline would cross.

Here is a brief summary from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe:

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) has taken a strong stand against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL), a 1,134-mile long oil pipeline starting from the Bakken Oil Fields in North Dakota and ending up in refineries in Patoka, Illinois. It is proposed to
transport over 570,000 barrels per day. To date, more than 300 tribes and first nations officially stand with Standing Rock by way of tribal resolutions, letters of support, or tribal delegations joining the camp.

Please see the recent articles below for more details.

For more, see the articles here:

http://fore.yale.edu/files/9-29-16_Standing_Rock.pdf

http://fore.yale.edu/files/10-13-16_Standing_Rock_Update.pdf


You can make donations to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe here.

Best wishes,
Mary Evelyn Tucker & John Grim
The Forum on Religion and Ecology at Yale
http://fore.yale.edu/
www.emergingearthcommunity.org
www.journeyoftheuniverse.org

John Grim on Standing Rock: ‘This is Not Only About Water, It’s All About Water’
By Timothy Brown
Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies
November 30, 2016
http://environment.yale.edu/news/article/john-grim-on-standing-rock/

In recent days, the conflict has escalated over construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. John Grim, a senior lecturer and research scholar at F&ES and an expert in Native American religions, discusses the historical, cultural, and spiritual significance of the Standing Rock demonstrations for Native people. Since last April, members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and their allies — who collectively call themselves “water protectors” — have been camped on the windswept prairie of North Dakota in an effort to block construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) across the Missouri River some 40 miles south of Bismarck.
Indigenous Activists at Standing Rock Told a Deep, True Story
By Bill McKibben
The Nation
December 5, 2016

And that’s why they won at least a temporary victory. All organizing is story-telling, and the story that got told at Standing Rock was so powerful that ultimately the Obama White House had little choice but to go along. The decision by the Army Corps of Engineers not to grant the permits necessary for sending the Dakota Access Pipeline beneath the Missouri River is a tribute to truly remarkable efforts by Indigenous organizers, from the Standing Rock Sioux tribe to groups like the Indigenous Environmental Network and Honor the Earth. It's also a tribute to the incredible power of civil disobedience, a tool I tried to describe in last week’s print edition of The Nation.

The victory at Standing Rock could mark a turning point
By Bill McKibben
The Guardian
December 4, 2016
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/dec/04/standing-rock-victory-turning-point

The defeat of an energy company by indigenous activists shows what nonviolent unity can accomplish. There are lessons here as we enter a challenging new age. The news that the US federal government has refused to issue the permit needed to run a pipeline under the Missouri river means many things – including that indigenous activists have won a smashing victory, one that shows what nonviolent unity can accomplish.

Restoring Paradise One Watershed at a Time
By Miriam MacGillis, Genesis Farm
December 2, 2016
http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/857531/4544cf46ba/1634009901/d32c77a1c6/

Perhaps Paradise was never lost. Earth can’t be lost. She can be desecrated and abused. She can be diminished severely in her beauty, health and creativity, yet still endure. Prophets, poets and wise people from earlier times also mourned the loss of people, lands and things they loved. They did their best to explain the mystery of change. Especially difficult change that brought a sense of loss.
The Corps’ decision is a victory for several thousand protesters camped near the construction site. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Sunday that it won't grant an easement for the Dakota Access oil pipeline in southern North Dakota. The decision is a victory for the several thousand camped near the construction site, who’ve said for months that the four-state, $3.8 billion project would threaten a water source and cultural sites.

The “historic” decision comes as thousands of protesters gather on the Standing Rock Sioux reservation. The Obama administration has halted construction of the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline amid growing protests that were expected to draw some 2,000 U.S. military veterans. The Army announced Sunday that it has denied the final easement required for the $3.8 billion project to cross under Lake Oahe in North Dakota. Instead, it will conduct an Environmental Impact Statement to examine the impacts and explore alternative routes, it said.

Today, hundreds of veterans from across the United States took a knee and begged for forgiveness for crimes committed toward indigenous people in the name of the U.S. military. A massive awakening is being realized, and it’s stemming from the Standing Rock protest camps located near Cannon Ball, North Dakota. Since April, “water protectors” have been protesting the development of a four-state Dakota Access Pipeline.
“We beg for your forgiveness”: Veterans join Native elders in celebration ceremony
Salon
December 5, 2016
http://www.salon.com/2016/12/05/we-beg-for-your-forgiveness-veterans-join-native-elders-in-celebration-ceremony/

Wes Clark Jr., the son of retired U.S. Army general and former supreme commander at NATO Wesley Clark Sr., was part of a group of veterans at Standing Rock one day after the Army Corps announcement. The veterans joined Native American tribal elders in a ceremony celebrating the Dakota Access Pipeline easement denial. Lakota spiritual leader and medicine man Chief Leonard Crow Dog and Standing Rock Sioux spokeswoman Phyllis Young were among several Native elders who spoke, thanking the veterans for standing in solidarity during the protests.

Veterans and elders ignore eviction notice, arrive at #NoDAPL camp in North Dakota (video)
By Chris Stewart
APTN National News
December 2, 2016

As the Dec. 5 eviction date at the North Dakota camp trying to shut down construction of a pipeline, new groups of supporters have arrived on the scene.

Sioux anti-pipeline action sustained by Native American spirituality
By Emily McFarlan Miller, Religion News Service
National Catholic Reporter
November 29, 2016

STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. - In the Sioux creation narrative, water was one of the first beings the Creator made, and it became a major part of the people’s religious ceremonies. Now the Lakota prayer over water has become a rallying cry in the mass action to prevent the construction of a crude oil pipeline near this reservation. “‘Mni wiconi’ — we see that as a cry to rally people, and it’s not just here anymore, it’s worldwide. You see the hashtag, #MniWiconi. That means ‘water is life,’” Standing Rock Sioux tribal councilman Dana Yellow Fat said.
Worldviews Clashing at Standing Rock
By Bhikkhu Bodhi
Common Dreams
November 18, 2016
http://www.commondreams.org/views/2016/11/18/worldviews-clashing-standing-rock

The standoff at Standing Rock offers a choice between two worldviews: one that can lead to a new economy of shared prosperity and one that will hasten the devastation of the planet. The struggle to stop construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline marks not only a difference in economic policies but a contest between two radically different orientations to life. The struggle, which pits Native Americans and their allies against a company that constructs oil pipelines, has a profound significance that extends far beyond the plains of Standing Rock. The contest is both ethical and existential, and how it is resolved may well determine the future of human life, whether for harm or for good, on this beautiful but fragile planet.

Four Ways to Look at Standing Rock: An Indigenous Perspective
By Kayla DeVault
YES! Magazine
November 22, 2016

In the shadow of the Trump election, I found myself explaining to world climate leaders how to see Standing Rock through an indigenous lens. A couple of weeks ago, as I stood before climate scientists, advocates, and world policy leaders at the COP22 in Morocco, I felt the increased importance of my message as climate denier Donald Trump was voted into office. My perspective as a young Native woman living on the Navajo reservation and studying both renewable energy engineering and Diné studies had earned me an appointment to the NEJAC/EPA Youth Perspectives on Climate Working Group as well as to the SustainUs Youth Delegation attending the November climate talks in Marrakech.

Thanksgiving Blessings Following a Peace Vigil for Clergy at Standing Rock
Letter by Wendy Johnson
November 25, 2016
http://fore.yale.edu/news/item/thanksgiving-blessings-following-a-peace-vigil-for-clergy-at-standing-

Dear Dharma friends, teachers and family, I write you a day after the annual celebration of Thanksgiving, always a holiday of mixed blessing as well as one of love and
awareness, so necessary now in these post election times. A few weeks ago at the end of October during the sacred trio of days commemorating Samhain and All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day or El Dia de los Muertos, I answered a compelling call for clergy to gather in prayer and solidarity with the Standing Rock Water Protectors at Oceti Sakowin Camp in rural North Dakota. There, at the confluence of the Cannonball and Missouri Rivers, the Dakota Access Pipeline is excavating a 1700 mile long pipeline to carry crude Bakken Shale oil through the sacred burial grounds of the Sioux Nation and under the Missouri River, the longest river in North America. The Missouri is also the living source of drinking water for twelve million people. I responded to this call with every cell in my body. The proposed action was immediate, peaceful and clear: clergy were invited to gather at Standing Rock for a day of non-violent training and another full day of prayer and non-violent solidarity with the Water Protectors.

The Many Ways to Help Standing Rock
By Sarah van Gelder
YES! Magazine
November 29, 2016
http://www.yesmagazine.org/people-power/the-many-ways-to-help-standing-rock-20161129

Even if you can’t show up at the wintry encampments, you can join water protectors in other ways: from calling the North Dakota governor to breaking up with your bank. The timing couldn’t have been more awful. The day after Thanksgiving, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers told the Standing Rock Sioux tribe that people camped at the Oceti Sakowin Camp would be considered trespassers on that federally managed land after Dec. 5. With thousands of people, it is the largest of the water protectors’ camps. Next came the snow, which is piling up across the camp as I write. North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple ordered an immediate evacuation allegedly out of concern for the well-being of water protectors in the “harsh winter weather.”

'This is an awakening': Native Americans find new hope after Standing Rock
By Julia Carrie Wong
The Guardian
December 8, 2016

For those who left behind communities ravaged by poverty and substance abuse, their time spent at this historic gathering has been transformational. Frank Archambault’s tent sits on top of a small hill in the middle of Oceti Sakowin, the largest encampment at Standing Rock. It is easy to spot him on the small rise, wearing a long black coat,
feathered hat, and yellow, red, white and black ribbons on his arm that mark him as a member of Iktčé Wičháša Oyáte – A Common Men’s Society.

**Why Standing Rock Is About Way More Than a Pipeline**

By Jordan Chariton  
Mediaite  
December 7, 2016  

Growing up in a land of white privilege on Long Island, I had it fairly good. I wasn’t rich nor poor; I was middle class with two loving, working parents. Neither my family nor tribe of relatives were slaughtered; my land wasn’t stolen in the name of another race and class colonizing their own country from the burnt ashes of mine.

**The Dakota Access Pipeline and the Doctrine of Native Genocide**

By Tim Scott  
Truthout  
December 6, 2016  

The peaceful [Native Water Protectors](https://www.indigenouspeoplesdaily.org/2016/12/01/native-water-protectors/) who have been resisting the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) on sacred land belonging to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe have succeeded in winning federal accommodations to temporarily halt DAPL construction, but the energy company behind DAPL has pledged to proceed (with state support). Knowing the enduring historic and structural nature of this modern struggle -- a struggle in which the Water Protectors have courageously confronted violent local, state and private militarized forces, inspiring support from thousands of US military veterans - - is vital to understanding its significance.

**While Eyes Were On Standing Rock, The Dakota Pipeline Was Being Drilled Under Another Water Source**

By Adele Peters  
Fast Co.Exist  
December 6, 2016  
[https://www.fastcoexist.com/3066246/while-eyes-were-on-standing-rock-the-dakota-pipeline-was-being-drilled-under-another-water-s](https://www.fastcoexist.com/3066246/while-eyes-were-on-standing-rock-the-dakota-pipeline-was-being-drilled-under-another-water-s)

While the pipeline may have been halted in North Dakota, construction workers just finished drilling under the Des Moines River, which supplies the water for half a million people in Iowa. In the heart of Appalachia, in places like West Virginia and eastern
Kentucky, life has long been built around coal, figuratively and literally. In the early 20th century, coal companies founded towns in the rugged and steep interiors of West Virginia to hold their workforces. But coal—and the traditional idea of coal country with it—is dying. Markets have embraced cheaper or cleaner alternatives. Natural gas has surpassed coal as the country's largest source of net electricity generation. Renewables are projected to increase by 72% by 2040.

North Dakota pipeline protest (photos)
By Stephanie Keith
Reuters
November 28, 2016
http://in.reuters.com/news/picture/north-dakota-pipeline-protest?articleId=INRTST0OT&slideId=1163335901

The twisted economics of the Dakota Access Pipeline
By Jonathan Thompson
High Country News
November 29, 2016

As the weather gets colder, the fight over the Dakota Access Pipeline is heating up, in rather ugly ways. Just days before Thanksgiving, law enforcement officers tried to blast the protesters away with water cannons in 25-degree weather and employed other “less than lethal,” though still harmful, dispersal methods. One protester may lose her arm as a result of injuries suffered during the violence. And to top it off, the Army Corps of Engineers plans to close one of the camps of “water protectors” next week, which may embolden law enforcement to take a more forceful approach.

By Alexa Erickson
Collective Evolution
December 3, 2016

Environmental attorney and activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has put in decades of work to protect the environment, so having him publicly show his support in the fight against Energy Transfer Partners and the Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL) is of massive importance. ‘What [Energy Transfer Partners] is doing is a real environmental crime,”
said Kennedy, who serves as senior attorney and president of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which is a non-profit organization regarding the right to clean water.

Fake Cowboys and Real Indians
By Timothy Egan
New York Times
December 2, 2016

For most of this past week, a winter storm has lashed at the North Dakota prairie camp where the Standing Rock Sioux are making a stand to keep an oil pipeline away from water that is a source of life for them. The sight of native people shivering in a blizzard, while government authorities threaten to starve them out or forcefully remove them, is a living diorama of so much awful history between the First Americans and those who took everything from them.

Water Protectors Deliver Donations to Morton County Officers
By Jade Begay
Indigenous Environment Network
December 2, 2016
http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2016/12/02/water-protectors-deliver-donations-morton-county-officers

MANAND, ND - On Friday December 2nd at approximately 2pm CST Water Protectors from Oceti Sakowin camp will fulfill a donation list that the Morton County Sheriff's Department released on November 22, 2016. The Oceti Sakowin headsman will join veterans, youth, and women leaders and stand with Leonard Crow Dog who will offer a prayer as Protectors deliver the supplies to the Sheriff’s Department in Mandan, ND.

Standing Rock is the civil rights issue of our time – let's act accordingly
By Bill McKibben
The Guardian
November 29, 2016

The US government sent helpers to protect integration efforts in the 1960s. Why not do more to protect the Dakota Pipeline protesters today? When John Doar died in 2014, Barack Obama, who’d already awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, called
him “one of America’s bravest lawyers”. Without his courage and perseverance, the
president said, “Michelle and I might not be where we are today”.

Dakota Access Pipeline ‘akin to cultural genocide’ - DAPL activist to RT (VIDEO)
RT.com
November 29, 2016

Linda Black Elk, who has treated Standing Rock protesters injured by law enforcement,
describes the Dakota Access Pipeline as “cultural genocide” in an RT interview. Vowing
not to give up the effort, she calls on President Barack Obama to stand with them. “The
pipeline is actually akin to cultural genocide. They are destroying important plants,
eatable and medical plants. They are destroying future restoration sites for plants that
the Lakota people use every day in their culture, whether it is for food, medicine or
ceremony,” Black Elk of the Standing Rock Medic and Healer Council said.

17 Former Native American Obama Administration Officials Send President DAPL
Message
By Levi Rickert
Native News Online
November 29, 2016
http://nativenewsonline.net/currents/17-former-native-american-obama-administration-officials-send-president-dapl-message/

WASHINGTON – Seventeen Native Americans from different tribal backgrounds and
who served at various capacities within the Obama administration have called on
President Barack Obama to take immediate action to block or reroute the Dakota Access
Pipeline. The collective group sent President Obama yesterday to ask him to stand up for
Standing Rock.

Veterans to Serve as ‘Human Shields’ for Dakota Pipeline Protesters
By Christopher Mele
New York Times
November 29, 2016

As many as 2,000 veterans planned to gather next week at the Standing Rock Sioux
Reservation in North Dakota to serve as “human shields” for protesters who have for
months clashed with the police over the construction of an oil pipeline, organizers said.
The effort, called Veterans Stand for Standing Rock, is planned as a nonviolent intervention to defend the demonstrators from what the group calls “assault and intimidation at the hands of the militarized police force.”

Neil Young Begs Obama To Step In, End Violence At Standing Rock
By Maxwell Strachan, Senior Editor
The Huffington Post
November 28, 2016
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/neil-young-standing-rock-obama-trump_us_583c8be9e4b06539a789d9bb

“We will be going back to support the water protectors again. Neil Young and his girlfriend, Daryl Hannah, published an open letter on Monday calling for President Barack Obama to do whatever he can to make sure authorities begin to treat the protestors at the Standing Rock Native American Reservation with decency and respect.

North Dakota governor orders evacuation of Standing Rock protest site, but no forcible removals planned
By William Yardley
LA Times
November 28, 2016

North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple on Monday ordered a mandatory evacuation of protesters seeking to block construction of the Dakota Access pipeline, but both the state and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said they have no plans for “forcible removal” of the protesters. The Corps of Engineers earlier had said that it planned to close the camp, led by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe of North Dakota, by Dec. 5, and that anyone still there could be prosecuted for trespassing.

Officials to Close Standing Rock Protest Campsite
By Christopher Mele
New York Times
Citing public safety concerns, federal officials plan to close access to a campsite where demonstrators have protested the construction of a crude oil pipeline near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in North Dakota and create a “free speech zone.” The Army Corps of Engineers, in a letter Friday to the chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Dave Archambault II, said the decision had been made to “protect the general public from the violent confrontations between protesters and law enforcement officials that have occurred in this area.”

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reacts to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Eviction Notice: Your Letter Makes a Grave & Dangerous Mistake
By Levi Rickert
Native News Online
November 26, 2016

EAGLE BUTTE, SOUTH DAKOTA – Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Chairman Harold Frazier was quick to respond to the U.S Army Corps of Engineers’ letter, dated November 25, 2016, that will evict the water protectors who are camping at Oceti Sakowin camp. The 10-day eviction notice came one day after Thanksgiving where thousands have come to show solidarity with the water protectors who oppose the Dakota Access pipeline.

It’s cowboy cops cavalry against peaceful Indians and their Anglo supporters at Standing Rock
By Dave Lindorff
Nation of Change
November 25, 2016

The corporate media meanwhile, have been for the most part shameless and useless in this enormous conflict between native people and the state. The struggle at Standing Rock, North Dakota, between the Sioux people and their supporters and the oil corporations and banks trying to run a dangerous pipeline for filthy Bakkan crude oil through their sacred lands and underneath the Missouri River was cranked up to a new level of violence Sunday and in ensuing days as National Guard troops and the Morton County Sheriff’s Department, bolstered by volunteers from various other police departments conducted an all-night attack using maximum violence, including flash-bang
concussion grenades, rubber bullets, mace, tear gas and three water cannons – this at a
time the temperature on the prairie had fallen to a low of 22 degrees fahrenheit.

At Standing Rock and Beyond, What Is to Be Done?
By Eric Martin
The Stone
New York Times
November 25, 2016

Near Cannon Ball, N.D. — “We love you!” yelled someone from our line, linked arm in
arm. We were facing Dakota Access Pipeline workers threatening us with baseball bats
and wrenches, one of whom had only moments ago sped his large truck through our
ranks. They had called us “the scum of the earth,” and replied to our assurance that we
were nonviolent by warning, “We’re not.” A helicopter had appeared and begun circling
low over our heads. And from this scene, one of the men who had not yet spoken
sheepishly replied, “We love you, too.

Veterans Plan "Deployment" to Join Water Protectors' Battle Against DAPL
By Nika Knight
Common Dreams
November 24, 2016

"Let's stop this savage injustice being committed right here at home. If not us, who? If not
now, when?" Over 1,000 U.S. military veterans are planning to "deploy" to join the
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and peacefully support the water protectors' fight against the
controversial Dakota Access Pipeline near Cannon Ball, North Dakota. "We are calling
for our fellow veterans to assemble as a peaceful, unarmed militia at the Standing Rock
Indian Reservation on Dec 4-7 and defend the water protectors from assault and
intimidation at the hands of the militarized police force and DAPL security," the
organizers wrote on the group's GoFundMe page.

Where Oil and Politics Mix
By Deborah Sontag
New York Times
November 23, 2016
After an unusual land deal, a giant spill and a tanker-train explosion, anxiety began to ripple across the North Dakota prairie. TIOGA, N.D. — In late June, as black and gold balloons bobbed above black and gold tables with oil-rig centerpieces, the theme song from “Dallas” warmed up the crowd for the “One Million Barrels, One Million Thanks” celebration. The mood was giddy. Halliburton served barbecued crawfish from Louisiana. A commemorative firearms dealer hawked a “one-million barrel” shotgun emblazoned with the slogan “Oil Can!” Mrs. North Dakota, in banner and crown, posed for pictures. The Texas Flying Legends performed an airshow backlit by a leaping flare of burning gas. And Gov. Jack Dalrymple was the featured guest.

'People Are Going to Die': Father of Wounded DAPL Activist Sophia Wilansky Speaks Out
By Nika Knight
Common Dreams
November 23, 2016

Is devastating policy brutality against water protectors in North Dakota a harbinger of what’s to come when Donald Trump takes office? Sunday's brutal police assault against peaceful Dakota Access Pipeline activists left one water protector, Sophia Wilansky, at risk of losing an arm, and her distraught father spoke out Tuesday and Wednesday against the shocking show of force and demanded government action.

Sheriffs Refuse to Send Troops to Standing Rock as Public Outrage and Costs Mount
By Jenni Monet
YES! Magazine
November 23, 2016

North Dakota is stretched thin in its battle to protect the Dakota Access pipeline construction: Costs are nearing $15 million, and police reinforcements are diminishing. Agents with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will be the latest agency assisting Morton County Sheriff Department deputies to guard Dakota Access pipeline construction as it prepares to drill under the Missouri River. But as tensions mount, along with costs to keep up with militarized attacks on water protectors, there are signs that North Dakota’s resources are stretching thin.
We’re Missing 90 Percent of the Dakota Access Pipeline Story
By Raul Garcia
Earth Justice
November 22, 2016
http://earthjustice.org/blog/2016-november/we-re-missing-90-percent-of-the-dakota-access-pipeline-story#

Over the past few months, the Dakota Access pipeline and the Standing Rock Sioux tribe that opposes this oil project went from anonymity to full blown national news coverage. Since August, the news media has been reporting on the Native Americans who have gathered in camps in North Dakota to protect sacred land and the Missouri River, the Standing Rock tribe’s sole water source. For months, we have been informed only about the most dramatic developments, but I discovered after a visit to the Sacred Stone camp two weeks ago that public understanding of what this movement is all about is based on misrepresentations. We are missing how peaceful, respectful and solemn this struggle is.

What Standing Rock Needs Obama to Do Quickly—Before Trump Takes Over
By Tom Goldtooth and Annie Leonard
YES! Magazine
November 18, 2016
http://www.yesmagazine.org/planet/what-standing-rock-needs-obama-to-do-quickly-before-trump-takes-over-20161118

Trump will try to fast-track fossil fuel projects across the country. That makes the final months of President Obama’s term more important than ever. With Donald Trump’s presidency on the horizon, it is now more important than ever for President Obama to stop the $3.7 billion Dakota Access pipeline, which is slated to carry 470,000 barrels of Bakken crude oil per day, with a growth potential of up to 570,000 barrels. It is the only solution that truly respects the treaty rights of the Standing Rock Sioux, protects the tribe’s sacred areas, defends the water of life, and takes into account the pipeline’s devastating climate impacts.

Native Americans facing excessive force in North Dakota pipeline protests – UN expert
United Nations Human Rights
Office of the High Commissioner
November 15, 2016

GENEVA – A United Nations human rights expert has accused US security forces of using excessive force against protesters trying to stop an oil pipeline project which runs
through land sacred to indigenous people. Law enforcement officials, private security firms and the North Dakota National Guard have used unjustified force to deal with opponents of the Dakota Access pipeline, according to Maina Kiai, the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

Disputed Dakota pipeline was approved by Army Corps over major objections by three federal agencies
By Phil McKenna
Inside Climate News
August 30, 2016

Sioux tribe's concerns were echoed in official reports by the EPA and two other agencies, but Army Corps of Engineers brushed them aside. BISMARCK, N.D.—Senior officials at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and two other federal agencies raised serious environmental and safety objections to the North Dakota section of the controversial Dakota Access oil pipeline, the same objections being voiced in a large protest by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe that has so far succeeded in halting construction.

Rewrite: The Protests At Standing Rock (Video)
With Lawrence O'Donnell
MSNBC
August 26, 2016
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PwsCuG1kSRk

In the Rewrite, Lawrence explains why a protest by Native Americans in North Dakota reminds us of the history American always tries to forget.