

<http://www.fossil-free.ch/update-dakota-access-und-keystone-pipeline- Successful-resistance-indigener-voelker/>

(translated from German)

Update Dakota Access and Keystone Pipeline: Successful Resistance by Indigenous Peoples

We have often called for vigils against oil pipelines. That's why we're happy that indigenous people have now achieved two positive successes in the USA.



Do you remember how fossil-free.ch called for vigils on Paradeplatz in Zürich and other Swiss cities in December 2016? Indigenous people have now achieved two positive, preliminary successes in the fight against oil pipelines in the USA.

The [Standing Rock Sioux](#) had been fighting against the Dakota Access Pipeline since the beginning because it crosses the Missouri River one and a half kilometers above their reservation. Its water is vital to the Sioux and an oil leak could make this water source undrinkable. The pipeline was closed in late autumn 2016 because of the brutal crackdown by police, security and paramilitary forces against the [determined protest by indigenous people](#). Calls by fossil-free.ch, Incomindios and the Society for Threatened Peoples to protest against the financing Credit Suisse were followed by calls by several hundred people in various Swiss cities.

In July 2020 [a federal court decided](#) that the pipeline must be decommissioned as of August 2020 until a full environmental impact analysis is completed. We remember: Donald Trump lifted Obama's construction freeze on the second day of his presidency because he wanted free rein for fossil energy. Since then, the Sioux, represented by Earthjustice, took legal action, which led to a temporary halt to operations after four years of disputes. The story will continue depending on the results of the environmental analysis and the presidential election.

The second victory in July 2020 is the Keystone Pipeline, which transports oil from the oil sands in Canada to Nebraska USA. The pipeline runs through lakes, streams and bogs. The US Supreme Court has upheld the ruling of a lower court. Accordingly, the US Army Corp of Engineers, which not only builds for the military but also has responsibility for national water resources and ecosystems, must provide a missing environmental study regarding endangered species. Keystone Pipeline opponents include Friends of the Earth, the Natural Resources Defense Council NRDC and the Sierra Club. [Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes](#) are filing [more lawsuits](#) against the construction.

Because of the costs of legal action, another pipeline was also stopped before construction could begin. Duke Energy and Dominion Energy decided to not build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. It would have threatened the [Appalachian Trail](#), a hiking trail through 14 states from south to north.

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