



Army Corps grants final approval for Dakota Access Pipeline, 9 years after oil began flowing

BY: MARY STEURER
ND Monitor

A federal agency officially granted the Dakota Access Pipeline a permit to cross under the Missouri River's Lake Oahe reservoir, ending a six-year environmental review to determine whether the pipeline could continue operating.

The decision, issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Thursday, authorizes the pipeline crossing with additional conditions the agency says will make the pipeline safer. It follows the Army Corps' December release of a 464-page report analyzing the environmental impacts of the pipeline crossing, which is in south-central North Dakota less than one mile upstream from the Standing Rock Reservation. The Army Corps was required by law to wait a minimum of 30 days before it could finalize its findings with the record of decision.

The Dakota Access Pipeline has been carrying crude oil from northwest North Dakota to southern Illinois since June 2017. The pipeline's owner, Dakota Access, was required to seek the easement

from the Army Corps, which manages Lake Oahe, to build the pipeline under the reservoir roughly 10 years ago.

The Army Corps initially granted the easement in 2017.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sued the agency in federal court, arguing the Army Corps approved the easement without completing the full environmental review required under federal law. The tribe claimed the easement was invalid and that the pipeline must be shut down.

A federal judge in 2020 sided with the tribe and vacated the easement. The judge ordered the Army Corps to conduct the environmental review before it could decide whether it was appropriate to re-authorize the permit.

The conditions added to the easement would mostly be the responsibility of Dakota Access to implement. The requirements are meant to prevent an oil spill and minimize the impacts of a spill, such as implementing new leak detection technology, monitoring groundwater and testing surface water. It would also require Dakota Access to provide an alternate water supply and to develop

a food distribution plan for communities that rely on Lake Oahe for food in the event of an oil spill.

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The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in a Thursday evening statement said that the conditions added to the easement by the Corps decision do not assuage any of the tribe's concerns related to the pipeline.

"Today's decision merely restates past conclusions and represents a pattern of minimizing and rejecting Tribal expertise in sustaining our lands, resources, and cultural properties," the tribe said in the statement. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe also said the Army Corps didn't sufficiently engage with the tribe to develop an emergency plan to protect Lake Oahe, which the tribe relies on for drinking water.

"The Tribe will evaluate all legal and political options to defend our Treaty rights, protect Mni

Wiconi — Water of Life, and hold the Federal government and private corporations accountable to the highest standards of environmental stewardship and Tribal consultation," Standing Rock Chair Steve Sitting Bear said in the statement.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum announced the development Thursday morning while presenting to the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference in Bismarck, drawing applause from the oil industry attendees.

Burgum, who became North Dakota governor in 2017 while Indigenous-led protests against the pipeline were ongoing, called the drawn-out environmental study "a cloud of uncertainty over the whole Bakken."

"No more uncertainty," Burgum said. "We're all good."

Adam Telle, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said in a statement that the Corps through the decision is "decisively putting years of delays to rest."

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are delivering the clear, consistent regulatory decisions required to provide certainty to the American economy and advance

President Trump's American energy dominance agenda, while protecting our natural resources," he said in the statement.

When the federal judge pulled the easement in 2020, he initially also ordered the pipeline to be shut down. However, that part of his decision was reversed by an appellate court.

The Army Corps allowed the pipeline to continue operating while it was working on the environmental impact statement. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in late 2024 brought another federal lawsuit against the agency, arguing the pipeline could not continue carrying oil under Lake Oahe without the easement, among other claims. The judge concluded it was up to the Army Corps' discretion whether to allow the pipeline to stay open while the environmental impact statement was pending. He noted the tribe could bring another legal challenge against the agency once the study was complete. Standing Rock appealed the dismissal.

Vicki Granado, vice president of corporate communications for Dakota Access Pipeline developer Energy Transfer, said in a state-

ment that the company is "pleased" with the Army Corps' decision.

"We want to thank the Corps for the tremendous amount of time and effort put in by so many to bring this matter to a thoughtful close," Granado said in a statement.

Energy Transfer maintains the pipeline has always complied with regulations. The pipeline crosses at minimum 95 feet below the riverbed of Lake Oahe.

"The Dakota Access Pipeline is built to be one of the safest, most technologically advanced pipelines in the world," a website affiliated with Energy Transfer states.

North Dakota officials have supported the pipeline's continued operation. The project transports just under half of the state's oil production.

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North Dakota Monitor Editor Amy Dalrymple contributed to this story.

This story was updated with comments from Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

***** TM College Spring 2026 Honor Roll *****

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GPA 4.00

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Baker, Wrangler A.
Baustad, Kelsey L.
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Belgarder, Kutter M.
Belgarde, Robert D.
Bercier, McKenzie K.
Brien, Ty A.
Brunelle, Sara M.
Champagne, Lacey D.
Champagne, Nikki L.
Charbonneau, Shylin M.
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Davis, Dallas M.
Davis, Elizabeth G.
Davis, Francene L.
Davis, Harleigh V.
Davis, Kennley L.
Davis, Lee J.
Davis, Leta R.
Davis, Sean L.
Davis, Tylee Jean

DeCoteau, Barry G.
DeCoteau, Jayden AF.
DeCoteau, Landen R.
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Delorme, Heather L.
Delorme, Jaylen J.
DuBois, Alicia S.
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Harris, Chance L.
Henry, T'Naiya
Herman, Gracie R.
Jeanotte, Aubree Jayne
Jeanotte, Tammy M.
Keplin, Connor J.
Laducer, Quinn A.
Laducer, Susie M.
Laducer, Zaiden P.
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LaVallie, Landon L.
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Morin, Kelsey L.
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Ordner, Matthew
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Parisien, Jerzey R.
Parisien, Kayanna M.
Parisien-Trottier, Tailee A.
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Patneaud, Jon G.
Peltier, Mary C.
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Poitra, Michael L.
Poitra, Shanda L.
Poitra, Skyra J.
Poitra, Zoee L.
Schroeder, Cole C.

Selburg, Aaliyah E.
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Thomas, Lacey J.
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Vandal, Giselle M.
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Wilkie, Eric R.
Wilkie, Jennie M.
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Wilkie, Paige L.

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Allery, Ryzon V.
Allick, Mikella L.
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Azure, Edward J.
Azure, Marla C.
Azure, Monica R.
Azure, Tayla M.
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Belgarde, Sara A.
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Breland, Christian L.
Bruce, Dennis B.
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Brunelle, Mylena M.
Charbonneau, Tanaiah T.
Clark, Trenton A.
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Counts, Mary Beth
Cournoyer, Foster H.
Davis, Brandi L.
Davis, Eric G.
Davis, Kirsten M.
Davis, Skye D.
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DeCoteau, Erin L.
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Desjarlais, Jaxson R.J.
Enno, Marlin W.
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Fleetwood, Kirstien M.
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Gillis, Steven R.
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Gladue, Calvin F.
Gladue, Ryder L.
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Houle, Alicia C.
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Keplin, Laney S.
Keplin, Nataya R.
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Laducer, Elliott D.
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Lancaster, River A.
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LaVallie, Mia A.
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Lilley, Robert W.
Lindgren, Mia M.
Longie, Daniel A.
Longie, Jerrylee S.
Martin, Garrick L.
Martin, Jaycee R.
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Mata, Amarah B.
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Nadeau, Peder John Z.
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Peltier, Taelor J.
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Poitra, Kalob
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Smith, Ethan J.
St. Claire, Kaylie R.
Tandeski, Hunter W.
Thomas, Anthony D.
Trottier, Curren K.
Vivier, Nevaeh L.
Vondal, Adrienne N.

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Brien, Trey M.
Booth, Craig A.
Charette, Sydnee L.
Chase, Jessica N.
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Davis, Kael A.
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Davis, Paul E.

DeCoteau, Summer A.
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Demery, Santana R.
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Herman, Josie L.
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Poitra, Kole E.
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Short, Devin J.
St. Claire, Savannah
Steele, McKennize R.
Thomas, Tehkaya R.
Vondal, Chelsey M.
Williams, Sage L.

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs — Turtle Mountain Agency — PO Box 60 - Belcourt, ND

PUBLIC NOTICE — PROBATE INFORMATION NEEDED

The following Turtle Mountain Tribal Member estate cases need additional documents or information for submission to the Federal Probate Judge. **Potential heirs, please contact the BIA Turtle Mountain Agency Probate Department at (701) 660-4302 or visit with REGIONAL PROBATE TEAM IN PERSON MAY 18-28, 2026**
TURTLE MOUNTAIN AGENCY

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ALLERY RICHARD
ALLERY RITA
ALLERY TONI J
AZURE LAWRENCE
AZURE LISA
AZURE VICTORIA
BAUMAN MABEL
BAZILLE ANNETTE
BELGARDE CLAYTON
BELGARDE DELAINE
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BELGARDE RICKY
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BRIEN PHYLLIS
BROWN AUDREY
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CHAMBERLIN THERESA
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MARY VALERIE
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CLAMPITT CYNTHIA
CLARK MARY
CONNORS DELORES
COUNTS CARLEEN
COUNTS ROBERT
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DAVIS CHARLES
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DAVIS JOANNE BERNICE
DAY MARY
DECOTEAU DAVID
DECOTEAU EDWIN
DECOTEAU FRANCES
DECOTEAU JR EMIL
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DESJARLAIS CONRAD
DESJARLAIS JOSEPH
DIONNE MARC
DONEY GLENN
DONEY KENNETH
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DURBIN PATRICIA J
ELYK BERNICE
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GOURNEAU ERNEST
GOURNEAU WARREN
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GOURNEAU PATRICIA
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GRANT CAROL
GRAY II JOHN II
HOAGLAND PATRICIA
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HOULE CORBET
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HUNT DAVID
IMLER LORETTA
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LAFOUNTAIN RAMONA
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LENOIR JOHN
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MALMQUIST PATRICIA
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MCCLEOD CLETUS
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MORIN JEFF
MORIN SANDRA
NADEAU BETTY
NORQUAY SHIRLEY
PARISIEN CARLEEN
PARISIEN HARVEY
PARISIEN T RAYMOND
PARRISH CAROL
PAYS BARRY
PELTIER DANIEL N
PELTIER RONALD
PLANT ANNIE
POITRA CARY
POITRA CHERYL
POITRA GENE
POITRA LARRY
POITRA SANDRA
RABBE SARAH
ROY WYLE
SANDDAINE LORRAINE
SHIPLEY IRENE
SHORT LARRY
SIEBERT CLEMENCE
SKORICK HARRY
SMITH GLADYS
ST CLAIRES JUNE
ST PIERRE MARCELLINE
TROTTIER DARRELL
VILLALON DOROTHY
VONDAL CHERYL
WALLETTE JORDAN
WALLETTE NORMAN J
WILKIE NAPOLEON
WILKIE RICHARD
YOUNG GEORGE

BID REQUEST

Open Date: May 11, 2026

The Belcourt School District is calling for sealed bids for:

- The purchase of two (2) new 71-passenger school buses with gasoline engine and automatic transmission.

Pricing for each bus must be listed. Successful bidders must be a licensed, bonded, franchised dealer with warranty and parts availability. Any offers by the bidders with warranties, options, or assumed costs must be listed in the bids. For exact bid specification questions or information on used buses, contact Mr. Ray Trottier Jr. at (701)/477-6471 ext. 3307.

All interested businesses or parties submitting bids must comply with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) Requirements. All parties must have or acquire a tribal business license before the final purchase is made. For further information on TERO or EPA fees, call (701)/477-2600.

Sealed bids must be submitted to Duane Poitra at the school Business Office by the closing date of June 3, 2026 at 1:00 pm. The mailing address is Belcourt School District #7, Attn: Duane Poitra, PO Box 440, Belcourt, ND 58316. The bid will be opened at the school Business Office and will be presented to the School Board at its next regular meeting. The Belcourt School District #7 Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or any part of the bid or to waive any formalities in the bidding.

For further information contact:

Duane Poitra
Business Manager
P.O. Box 440
Belcourt, ND 58316

