“All pipelines leak”

Pipeline opposition and energy transition as social problem
Roadmap

1. Energy geographies introduction
2. Pipeline opposition in the upper Midwest
3. All pipelines leak: social or technical problem?
1. Energy geographies
Problem 1: Uneven spatial distribution

- How are economic, environmental, and social benefits and harms distributed?
- How do different types of energy extraction, transportation, refining, and consumption chains affect different populations?
Problem 2: Energy cultures

• How do fossil fuels influence how we experience nature, space, and place?
• How do energy infrastructures generate emotions, art, or media? What do these reactions tell us about ourselves?
Problem 3: Energy transitions and futures

- What events govern energy transition?
  - Economic
  - Political
  - Cultural
- Who benefits, who loses, who decides and how do we know?
Grand Ball given by the Whales in honor of the discovery of the Oil Wells in Pennsylvania.
2. Pipeline opposition in the upper Midwest
Pipeline Populism: Affective infrastructures of grassroots environmentalism in the 21st century
How are populist coalitions opposing oil pipelines remaking American environmentalism?
## Organizations

### Regional progressive community organizations
- Dakota Rural Action
- Bold Nebraska & Bold Iowa
- Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition
- Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement

### Environmental justice organizations
- Plains Justice
- Science and Environmental Health Network
- Women, Food and Agriculture Network

### Landowner organizations
- Protect South Dakota Resources
- Nebraska Easement Action Team (N.E.A.T.)
- Northwest Iowa Landowners Association

### Nationally-supported environmental groups
- 350.org (local and nat’l)
- The People’s Climate March / Movement
- Sierra Club
Problem 1: Uneven spatial distribution
Problem 1: Uneven spatial distribution
Problem 2: Energy cultures
Problem 2: Energy cultures
Problem 3: Energy futures
Problem 3: Energy futures
3. All Pipelines Leak
THE ONLY PIPELINE THAT DOESN'T LEAK

is the one that is NEVER BUILT!

#NoDAPL  #KeepItInTheGround  #WaterIsLife
All pipelines leak: technical problem?

- Follow proper procedure
- Inclusion of stakeholder voices
- Mitigation of risk or harm
- Engineering or “technical” solutions are proposed to tweak both infrastructure systems themselves and democratic decision-making
Critique of technical approach

• **Procedure** is “rigged” or “set up” to avoid environmentally and socially just outcomes
  – Public participation
  – Tribal consultation
• **Inclusion** is rarely meaningful
• **Mitigation** is uneven or unfair
• Political disagreement is dissuaded in favor of *consensus* approach lacking meaningful action
KXL Permitting Process: Who Will Represent the People?

April 19, 2018 by Dakota Rural Action  Leave a Comment

By Frank James, DRA Staff Director

About halfway through the Supreme Court hearing on April 17th of Dakota Rural Action’s case on the Keystone XL Pipeline, I began wondering who was representing the people of South Dakota.

This may seem pretty straightforward at least in principle, Adam de Hueck, the attorney for the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in the hearing, should be the clear choice. However, I think he threw us all under the bus.

This judgement stems from a question posed by the Supreme Court a week prior to yesterday’s hearing. I learned about it from DRA’s Attorney Bruce Ellison at our Black Hills Chapter Annual Meeting in Rapid City. He said the Supreme Court staff found a statute passed 40 years ago dealing with PUC certification actions like the one we are appealing. This law called into question whether the PUC was required to do anything other than accept TransCanada’s certification of their permit, and whether they were even required to hold a hearing on that certification. To a lay person, this raises the question of the point of the whole process. If the PUC isn’t required to act, then why have the certification process in the first place?
poration at the expense of a safe environment for us all is a bad idea.

We the people of Iowa deserve better than an unelected and unaccountable Iowa Utility Board having the authority to decide whether we get this dangerous pipeline, and whether private land owners will have their property rights taken away from them and handed to a corporation. This whole regulatory hearing process is illegitimate, as it violates our right to govern ourselves in our communities, and to decide for ourselves whether the pipeline is a good fit for our state. I encourage you to find out more about this, and if you would help you pass a locally-enforceable law in your community.

I would like to end with a quote from Winona LaDuke,

"Someone needs to explain to me why wanting clean drinking water makes you an activist, and why proposing to destroy water with chemical warfare doesn't make a corporation a terrorist."

"We the People" can do this together! Thank you.
All pipelines leak: social problem?

- Political and social values are embedded in infrastructure systems
- Contestation of infrastructure is about meaningful (perhaps irreconcilable) differences in imagining democracy and the future
- What kind of future do we want to leave for our descendants?
Stranded assets in times of energy transition