

living standing rock

HOLYOKE
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Despite 11 months of prayerful civil disobedience on the ground resulting in nearly 800 arrests (all unarmed), a global divestment movement, and an unresolved federal lawsuit by two tribal governments challenging its legality under treaty and statutory law - including the National Environmental Policy Act - the Dakota Access Pipeline was granted a 30-year easement by the Trump Administration's Army Corps of Engineers in February 2017, and began operations in June with no spill remediation plan in place and no

environmental justice assessment or environmental impact statement. This talk explores the history and current conditions for communities most at-risk from the massive Bakken crude pipeline now buried under Standing Rock's primary water source, the Missouri River, or Lake Oahe - a massive reservoir created by the 1962 damming of Mni Sose (Turbulent Water) by the Army Corps, dispossessing Standing Rock tribal families of more than 50,000 acres of prime farmland gardens, pasturage, and orchards.

Jennifer Edwards Weston is a researcher who has worked for the past two decades with tribal community programs focused on cultural resiliency, environmental justice, education, and language revitalization. She has written for the Lakota Nation Journal, Cultural Survival Quarterly, OurMotherTongues.org, and served as an associate producer for the PBS series "We Shall Remain: A Native History of America," and the Makepeace Productions film "We Still Live Here: Ās Nutayuneân." Weston also works as a consulting producer for indigenous film and documentary projects.

Currently she serves as project director for the Wôpanâak language nest, Mukayuhsak Weekuw: The Children's House, and as Language Department Director for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe. From 2014-2017 she co-taught a Civic Engagement Scholarship Initiative (CESI) course at UMass Boston entitled "Native American Women in North America: Indigenous Mother Tongues, Leadership and Self-Determination."

Weston is Hunkpapa Lakota and was born and raised on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation in the Dakotas, where she has served her tribal government as environmental outreach coordinator and grant writer. She is also a novice Lakotiyapi and Wôpanâôt&âok learner.