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Sierra Club Supports Stunning Court Ruling on Dakota Access Pipeline

A federal judge ruled that the Dakota Access pipeline must shut down by August 5 and must remain free of oil until the environmental studies have been completed. The judge ruled that the federal permit for the pipeline violated the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, related to the analysis, review, and avoidance of environmental effects of the project.

The public first became aware of the pipeline project almost exactly six years ago. Pam Mackey-Taylor, Iowa Chapter Director stated, “Throughout the permitting process, Dakota Access has failed to adequately study the environmental affects that the pipeline will have on the states where it crosses.” She added, “The Iowa Utilities Board and the Iowa Supreme Court did not satisfactorily look at the effects of the pipeline on Iowa’s endangered and threatened species, Iowa’s archaeological resources, and the risks to Iowa’s water and soils from leaks and pipeline breaks”.

Carolyn Raffensperger, Vice-Chair of the Iowa Chapter commented, “I am grateful that justice has finally been done for our indigenous brothers and sisters. I am also grateful that justice is being done about the dual threats to our water and climate.”

The pipeline slices diagonally across Iowa, through 18 counties, from Lyon County through Lee County.