

# **HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT - PIPELINES AND WATER RESOURCES IN NORTHERN GEORGIA**

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The world has been literally been watching for some time the events transpiring at Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. After months of turmoil, they had achieved a provisional victory in their fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. However, that victory would soon be washed away by two executive orders by President Donald Trump reviving the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is now sending agents to help clear Dakota Access dissenters from the area. How are these actions even remotely related to water resources in Georgia? Georgia is not as pockmarked with oil and natural gas pipelines as numerous states in the southeastern U.S. However, the issue in Georgia is not necessarily number, but siting. Several gas transmission and hazardous liquid pipelines traverse through Fulton County and the counties in the Lake Lanier basin. Leakages similar to those in Alabama and Pennsylvania could potentially wreak havoc on the water supply for Atlanta and localities downstream. The 2016 drought, and its connected measures, underscored the fragility of water sources in northern Georgia. While there is currently a state moratorium on new pipeline construction, it is within the realm of possibility that “the good of interstate commerce” could be invoked to supersede any state efforts to block such construction.

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