

Newsire

Volume 5

May 2026

18th Edition

Indigenous Environmental Network • 1992 - 2026 • All Rights Reserved

Dear Relatives,

We're at the halfway point of 2026 as we enter the month of June. At some point in daily conversations, someone has remarked something along the lines of, 'Where have the days gone, and so quickly!' So far this year, we were bombarded almost daily with next to impossible-to-understand, or come to terms with, actions that defy all reason and common sense. Actions that threaten our rights as citizens and violate the very foundations, although not perfect, of human rights codified over the years in the country's founding framework.

Each day, news reports are filled with both bad and good news. Across the country, good news largely revolves around citizens' transformation from apathy to action, in Indigenous, rural, and urban communities. Indian Country is pushing back on corporate-sponsored and controlled federal, state, and local governments' elimination of protections. Regulations and mandates that once respected land rights, limited the levels of toxins from industrial waste streams in our air, water, and land, have been postponed, significantly modified to benefit polluters, or eliminated altogether.

Direct Action halts unlawful projects

Lakota citizens' actions last month resulted in an injunction to halt exploratory graphite drilling at Pe' Sla. Chained to mining equipment at an arrestable action, [young Lakota warriors physically occupied two active drill pads at Pe'Sla for a week starting on May Day](#), holding the line in ways that would shape public pressure, the court response, and pressure the company.

These relatives from the Oglala chapter of the International Indigenous Youth Council, NDN Collective, and allied organizations locked themselves to drilling machinery at two of the pads. [Click here to watch as the machinery is moved out of the area.](#)

Another attempt to usurp tribal authority was temporarily halted [when Indigenous communities and environmental justice advocates continued fighting attempts to drill at Craven Canyon](#) that have been going on since the 70s. This is sacred land that has been utilized for Lakota ceremony for thousands of years. The site contains ancient petroglyphs and other features that would be disturbed or destroyed by drilling. Stay tuned for more updates and ways you can help protect sacred sites in the He Sapa.

Always in our hearts and minds

On Sunday, May 3rd, MMIW 218 hosted the 3rd Bemidji National MMIWR Awareness Day at the Sanford Center. [Click here to see images and learn more.](#) And here on their [Facebook timeline.](#)

Simone Senogles Fund

Simone's impact was as personal as it was global. She was a steady presence, a protector, and a leader who demonstrated the critical importance of showing up when your people need you.

Simone's family asks those who loved her to honor her memory by carrying forward the work she championed: Protecting Mother Earth, Defending Indigenous Rights, and nurturing community above all else. In the spirit of Simone's artistic and organizing work, we are supporting a grant in her honor. [Click here to support if you can and learn more.](#)

Protecting the Sacred

Tribal Nations in May stood firm and demanded protection of the Sacred Pipestone site from the controversial Magellan Pipeline near Pipestone National Monument. The pipestone area is home to the sacred red stone used to create the Canupa, the sacred pipe. For generations, Tribal people who have been on this land for time immemorial have held this place in deep reverence.

Mark Tilsen, IEN's National Pipeline Organizer, advised caution: "There are 170,000 Oceti Sakowin members who are not going to take a threat to one of our sacred sites lying down. Nobody wants another NoDAPL Pipeline fight in their backyard." [Click here to learn more.](#)

After a botched cultural survey conducted in violation of the PUC order, Tribal Nations are demanding that the MPUC deny any permit. Comments will be accepted until June 22, 2026. More info below on how and where to submit comments.

Celebrating our Wild Relatives

May 20th was World Bee Day. The IEN Teaching Garden celebrated by introducing us to [our native bees](#). For more information, events, and updates from the IEN Teaching Garden, [click here](#).

What to watch for in June

There will be more legal activity as communities across the country file injunctions against investment firms and multi-national corporations, attempting to force communities to suffer health threats to humans and wildlife, damage, and destruction from hyper-scale data centers amid the continued fallout and uncertainty of war and globalization.

We are in the planning and execution stages for community actions and events, annual world gatherings, and opportunities for your participation and engagement in the coming months. So, be on the lookout for calls to action and more educational outreach from our teams of frontline and grassroots organizers.

Until next time...Be well and safe.

NEWS FROM ACROSS TURTLE ISLAND AND BEYOND

**Mississaugas of Scugog Island
First Nation Chief urges**

**Hanford Advances Cleanup,
Removes Waste From 23rd**

collaborative First Nations efforts

Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation Chief Kelly LaRocca believes there is strength in numbers. That's why she is doing her best to get other First Nations to work together to achieve collective goals. [Click here to read more.](#)

We Saw What AI Data Centers Don't Want You to See

We investigated one of the world's largest AI data centers, using thermal drone footage to reveal the hidden pollution powering the AI boom. As companies race to build the future of artificial intelligence, residents and experts warn that fossil fuels, secrecy, and weak regulation may be putting communities at risk. [Click here to read more.](#)

How Indigenous knowledge built the foundation for today's response to the hantavirus outbreak

New infections aboard a cruise ship have thrust the hantavirus into the global spotlight. Hantavirus infections remain rare, with only about 1,000 cases reported in the U.S. in more than 30 years. What the world knows about the illness started in 1993 on the Navajo Nation. After struggling to identify the dangerous respiratory illness, medical researchers gained crucial insights from Navajo elders, noting that traditional oral histories had long associated spikes in deer mouse populations — driven by specific rainfall patterns — with deadly disease. [Click here to read more.](#)

The forest is crying out to us through fires, floods, and hurricanes. It's a cry for help: A conversation with forest ecologist Suzanne Simard Healthy, mature forests are the best and only proven carbon capture and storage system there is, essential in mitigating the climate crisis... [Click here to read more.](#)

~~~~~

## Deny the Magellan Pipeline permit! Support the NO

## Underground Tank

RICHLAND, Wash. — The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford team has finished removing radioactive waste from the 23rd underground storage tank, marking continued progress towards site remediation and revitalization. [Click here to read more.](#)

## As data centers boom, Virginians breathe the exhaust of 10,000 diesel generators

Pollution from generators at data centers could cause respiratory symptoms and deaths in the region, an analysis for The Washington Post found. [Click here to read more.](#)

## America Spent \$12.5 Billion Fighting the Emerald Ash Borer. The Woodpeckers Did It For Free

This documentary follows the decade of bark-peeling, camera-trapping, and citizen-science data that revealed how the hairy woodpecker, the downy woodpecker, the red-bellied woodpecker, the white-breasted nuthatch, and a native wasp called *Atanycolus cappaerti* turned a continental ecological disaster into something foresters now call "lingering ash" — young trees that are starting to survive in the same counties that lost everything fifteen years ago. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Ready the skunk cabbage,** it's the great camas bake-off  
Prized bulb is a traditional food that proves tricky to bake right [Click here to read more.](#)

## \$1 Trillion

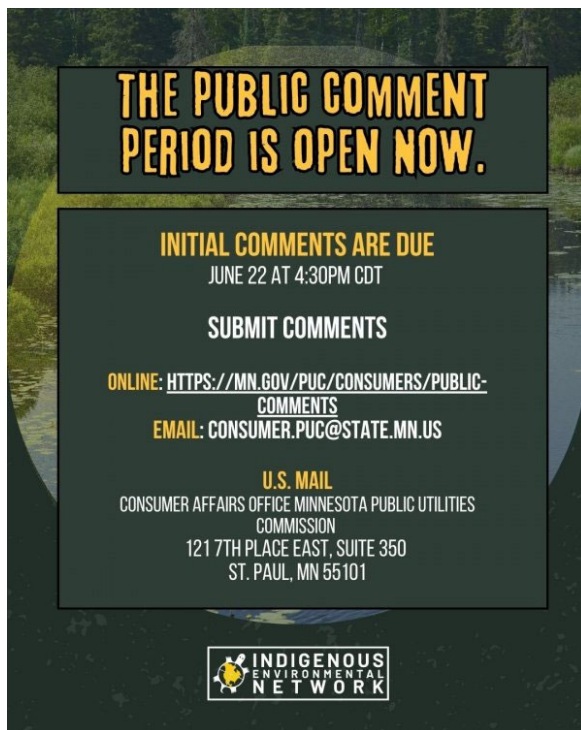
Worldwide business losses from extreme weather events in the coming years as threats from climate change manifest for companies, according to a report from climate reporting agency CDP - Octopus Energy Is Getting Into the Carbon Credit Business British renewable-power utility said it is seeing growth in companies looking to find ways to offset rising emissions. [Click here to read more.](#)

**Pentagon Reveals Attacks in Latin America Are Just the Beginning** With "Operation Total Extermination" and Trump's threats against

## BUILD alternative!

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) NOW OPENED a public comment period, after rescinding the permit to approve a pipeline under 1 mile for the Pipestone National Monument.

The Magellan OneOK company violated PUC orders by refusing to work with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council! They chose their own non Native contractor to get this done as quickly as possible. [Click here for more info and how to comment before June 22nd.](#)



**THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS OPEN NOW.**

**INITIAL COMMENTS ARE DUE**  
JUNE 22 AT 4:30PM CDT

**SUBMIT COMMENTS**

**ONLINE:** [HTTPS://MN.GOV/PUC/CONSUMERS/PUBLIC-COMMENTS](https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments)  
**EMAIL:** [CONSUMER.PUC@STATE.MN.US](mailto:CONSUMER.PUC@STATE.MN.US)

**U.S. MAIL**  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS OFFICE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
121 7TH PLACE EAST, SUITE 350  
ST. PAUL, MN 55101

**INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK**

Cuba, expect more U.S. military strikes in the region. [Click here to read more.](#)

~~~~~

Thank You for Your Support Over the Years

Keep up with what's happening across Turtle Island and beyond by following our social media channels:



You make it possible for us to do what we do by sharing our newsletters, webpages, and social media posts - keep up the good ways of being and we'll see you on the trail!

The Indigenous Environmental Network • PO Box 485 • Bemidji, MN 56619
<http://www.ienearth.org/>

[Subscribe](#) • [Preferences](#) • [Unsubscribe](#) • [Report Spam](#)

Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)

