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Newswire

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18th Edition

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Dear Relatives,

September 2026 has come and gone.

As we look back, it was one of the most tumultuous, socially and politically charged periods in recent history. For many reasons, election cycles include periods of highly charged debate. But this time around, much of what is at stake is the culmination of [late-stage capitalism](#), which has driven the billionaire class to actively secure ownership of anything they see as a path to more power and control. These actions include building surveillance and command-and-control systems that prevent anyone from standing in their way.

This leads us to the latest reports on the race to build hyperscale data centers, which are an existential threat to the natural world. These facilities destroy ecosystems, ensure less access to safe, clean water and [food produced or provided in nature](#), limit and delete access to science and investigative journalism, and establish a police state. At this stage, most people know that if this continues unabated, all life on Mother Earth is at risk of extinction. This is not hyperbole or overreach.

These issues of the day, all of them we're facing, have the potential to be devastating game-changers that transcend race, class, gender, culture, and we're all subject to the devil in the details.

As Indigenous Peoples, our overarching responsibility is to bring solutions, clarity, and a path forward, grounded in all we know of natural law and the context needed for practical application across the board -- for a [just transition](#) that fosters sustainability and the preservation of the basic gifts that are the elements that sustain all life on Mother Earth.

If there was any moment in history where we all needed to understand our responsibility to the Seventh Generation, this is it.

The principles originate in the [Great Law of Peace of the Haudenosaunee](#) (Iroquois) Confederacy, and similar concepts exist in Anishinaabe, Māori,

Late-Stage Capitalism

Overarching term for the current reality of systemic absurdities, economic anxiety, and situations in which the pursuit of profit leads to tragic, dehumanizing outcomes.

• Wealth Gap

A small percentage of individuals and mega-corporations control the vast majority of resources and capital.

• Total Commodification

Markets expand to price things that once fell outside of commerce, turning basic human needs, leisure, and personal data into revenue streams.

• Systemic Fatigue

Growth often becomes less about shared prosperity and becomes a series of real-world systems that control and maintain a strained system, frequently glorifying overwork and unreasonable demands to perform or fail, at the expense of the worker class's physical and mental health.

and Lakota worldviews.

We are taught that when we make choices and act, we must consider not only the impact on our immediate family or community but also honor the past and evaluate how actions will affect descendants roughly 150 to 700 years ahead of where we each stand in the moment. There is a slight misconception that there is a static generation named as such, but it is how we conduct ourselves today, with the seventh generation from our time here on Mother Earth as we look ahead, so all life thrives and prospers into the future.

All this and more brings us to the final weeks leading up to election day in the so-called U.S.. We all know that not everyone, including our Indigenous relatives, participates in the settler state processes of governance. However, we also understand that to change the system, “we have to be at the table, or we’ll be on the menu”. If you all are so inclined, here are two Indigenous-centered resources: [Protecting Native American Voting Rights](#) and the NCAI’s “[Honoring the Past; Preparing for Our Future](#)” that can help guide us to November 3rd.

In this issue of IEN’s Newswire, there is a lot more to consider as we try to make sense of all the chaos. We have a report from the [10th Anniversary Reunion of Standing Rock](#), and more reports and video from our time there in the community will follow soon – so as always, stay tuned to our socials and website for more information. We streamed days of remembrance and calls to action on social media, and everyone at IEN has been busy planning international and local events and calls to action, so you may see more in your email inbox soon, before next month’s report.

For now, as always, we send prayers and good thoughts for you, your loved ones, and your community's safety and healthy days.

KIITG September 2026

Brenna Yellowthunder (Lead Coordinator, KIITG) spoke at the Oregon Data Center Moratorium Rally on Sept. 8 in Oregon’s capitol, Salem. Alongside Governor Kotek, they emphasized the effect hyper scale data centers have on rivers and salmon, a cornerstone of local tribes culture. They also joined the lobby day, urging state legislators to support a 3-year moratorium on data centers. The event was organized by the Columbia Riverkeepers, Food and Water Watch, and more.





LINE 5 Failure...

Joe Bates, an environmental activist and member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, captured drone footage of the leak after hearing reports from community members. [Click here to read more](#).

Hundreds of water protectors return to Standing Rock after 10 years

It is impossible to briefly summarize the NoDAPL fight and what it meant to us all. For the months we stood in Radical indigenous space, yes in ceremony and prayer, but also Direct Action. There were many conflicts external and internal so many of left feeling more broken than victorious. [Click here to learn more](#).



Actions - Events - Announcements

Arctic Circle Assembly 2026

The largest yearly gathering on the Arctic is taking place again this year from October 8th through the 11th. Our staff will be there to inform and engage with our northern most relatives to continue to push for the REAL Solutions to climate change.

We can't continue to allow corporate polluters to continue drilling and mining our path to destruction. An Indigenous Just Transition is more important than ever to lead us into a thriving and prosperous future!

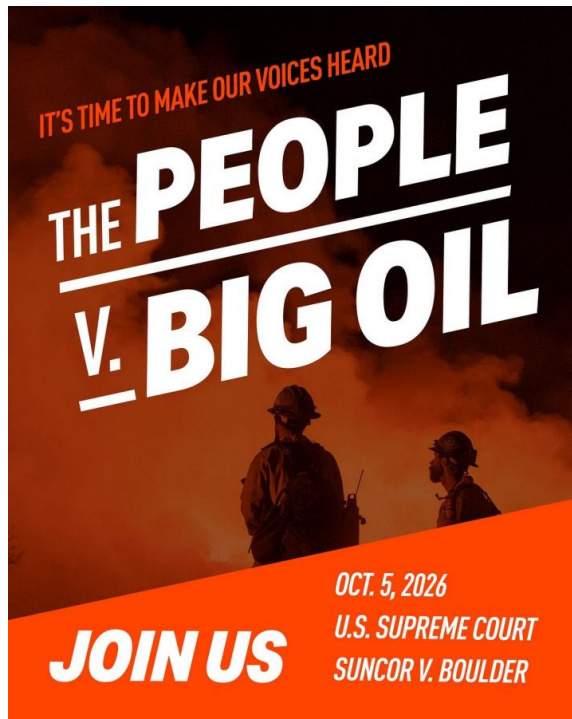
We are taking our voices to the
Arctic Circle Assembly 2026

The largest annual gathering on the Arctic is taking place again this October 8-11, 2026.

Corporate capture of these international forums continues to benefit extractive industries.

It's time to stop these money making schemes and focus on an Indigenous Just Transition away from extraction.

We'll have more information to share from this event on our social media platforms and in a report in next month's Newswire.



Big Oil's Last Stand at the Supreme Court Oct 5th

We're asking you to join us outside the Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., with the ranchers, teachers, medical professionals, young people, climate disaster survivors, elected officials and advocates who have a stake in this fight. We need to show Boulder, and every community paying the price for Big Oil's deception, that they're not standing alone.

[Click here for more information.](#)

DEMYSTIFYING PERMITTING REFORM

MYTHS vs FACTS

The big energy industry continues to perpetuate myths about bedrock environmental laws, such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), with the aim of eliminating public input and legal recourse on energy projects while accelerating fossil fuel development.

Communities know this is just a ruse. The truth is that NEPA and early community consultation strengthens projects across the board. To achieve a just clean energy transition, we must safeguard NEPA and bolster collaboration between communities, industry, and governments—including Tribal governments—not destroy the few community protections we have left in an effort to unleash unfettered fossil fuel expansion.

MYTH ❌ NEPA is a major barrier to deploying clean energy.

MYTH ❌ Community input causes delays.

MYTH ❌ NEPA lawsuits are a main bottleneck for renewable energy development.

FACT ✅ NEPA is a disclosure and decision-making process. It doesn't mandate a particular outcome or automatically stop projects. Studies show environmental regulations caused significant project delays or cancellations only 15% of the time in a survey of wind and solar project developers'. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), the most rigorous form of NEPA review, were required for only 5% of wind and solar projects between 2020-2021. Most project delays happen before or outside National Environmental Policy Act review like financing¹, market conditions², supply chains³, or poor early planning⁴.

FACT ✅ Across studies of energy projects, a lack of public engagement is cited as a major cause for delays⁵. When people are excluded from decisions that affect their homes, health, and livelihoods, opposition is not irrational. It is predictable. Early and meaningful stakeholder engagement leads to better siting decisions, greater public trust, and faster project completion⁶. Weakening review processes does the opposite: it shifts costs onto communities, fuels litigation, and undermines durable clean energy progress.

FACT ✅ Very few renewable energy projects are litigated under NEPA. In fact, litigation under NEPA delayed or led to the termination of just 0.6% of solar and wind generating capacity brought online from 2009-2023⁷. Industry leaders use cherry-picked data to argue lawsuits against energy projects are growing, but the actual number of lawsuits remains low. From 2010 to 2021, only 26 cases were filed against 23 wind projects, and 14 cases against 8 solar projects.¹⁰

CLIMATE JUSTICE ALLIANCE
COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR JUST TRANSITION

Broad Coalition Demands Affordable, Safe Energy, Rejects Polluter-Driven Permitting Reform

Today, [Climate Justice Alliance](#), [GreenLatinos](#), [Indigenous Environmental Network](#), [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#), and [Western Environmental Law Center](#) led a broad coalition of national organizations representing thousands of frontline, environmental justice, and Indigenous communities across the U.S. to oppose a dangerous deregulatory permitting reform proposal, disingenuously titled the ['Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act'](#), currently being negotiated in Congress. [Click the image to the left to read and download the fact sheets.](#)

Who Pays for Power? Take Action for Our Communities

Data centers need power. Power demand becomes the justification for new gas plants. Gas plants need pipelines. And too often, the land in the way belongs to Tribal Nations, Black families, and rural communities.

Frontline communities are paying with pollution and risk so others can profit.

[Sign up to take action.](#) We'll let you know when public comment periods open, when hearings are scheduled near you, and how to make your voice heard.



ICYMI

News and More from Across Turtle Island

Tribal Nations Oppose Federal Government's Trespass in Border Wall Case

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona represented by the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) filed an amicus brief in Tohono O'odham Nation v. Mullin, a case currently before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit challenging the federal government's planned construction of a border wall through the Tohono O'odham Nation's reservation in Arizona. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Data centers are changing America's landscape, report says

The corporate technology giants building data centers to power the artificial intelligence boom are changing America's natural landscape. [Click here to watch.](#)

Price of Oil

On Sept. 30th, the Senate unveiled a permitting reform bill that would make it easier for fossil fuel + tech companies to steamroll community opposition to their polluting, climate-wrecking projects. This bill would benefit Big Tech and Big Oil, not working families. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Bill Gates's Blunt Warning on A.I. So [his recent essay](#) on A.I., in which he says that he is staking his reputation on trying to get people to see how bad what is coming might be and trying to get them to see that we are not ready for what is about to happen, was something. [Click here to read more.](#)

Zero Emissions Day

On #ZeroEmissionsDay we remain firm in our stance to ending fossil fuels! Actual Zero Emissions cut emissions at the source and not a made up system where corporations can buy credits. It's been time to change and hold these corporations accountable for the destruction and harm they've caused to Mother Earth.



UNDRIP



We celebrate the 19th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Across our planet Indigenous people are on the frontlines of protecting Mother Earth, our health, safeguarding our youth and spearheading the ongoing fight for sovereignty and justice.

The full promise of UNDRIP has yet to be realized but the pathway is there and we must press on as our youth and future generations are depending on us. #UNDRIP #DefendTheSacred

International Day of Indigenous Women

Indigenous women are leaders who support their communities by being keepers of knowledge, languages, governance systems and stewarding the land. Yet their contributions often go unrecognized as they face deep inequalities and unequal participation in decision making processes. In order for us to build a sustainable, resilient and inclusive future, Indigenous women are essential in us going forward.

Per UN website: The International Day will generate global visibility for the leadership, contributions, and challenges faced by Indigenous women and girls. Such visibility contributes to public awareness, strengthens advocacy, and mobilizes long-term political attention and resources.



New from Buffalo's Fire

Land protections under threat and rising hurdles at the ballot box. This week's stories delve into concerns about voting barriers ahead of the midterms and the erosion of environmental protections. One OK's proposed "Reroute Pipeline Project" is threatening Pipestone with a petroleum pipeline that would be built through sacred lands. [Click here to read more.](#)

Ĥe Sápa Initiatives

Sacred Pipestone Virtual Teach-In

The Yankton Sioux Tribe and many other Tribes have been fighting this project since 2023. Previously, the Yankton Sioux Tribe objected to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's (PUC's) comparative environmental analysis and appealed the initial decision for a reroute of the Magellan Corporation's proposed pipeline, which would run through Pipestone.

Sovereign nations have the inherent right to protect their sacred sites and make decisions about their ancestral homelands. [Click here to watch...](#)

'Permitting Reform' Deal Hurts Animals, People, and the Environment

Couched as "permitting reform," their plan eviscerates parts of the Clean Water Act, weakens the Endangered Species Act, and helps fossil fuel companies — all while doing little to restrain the growing threat of massive data center buildouts. [Click here to read the article.](#)

Syngenta's secrets - What the company didn't tell the EPA about its "blockbuster" paraquat pesticide

Sweden started ringing the alarm bell more than 40 years ago, banning the weed killing chemical paraquat in 1983. One by one, other countries around the world did the same as evidence of paraquat risks to human health mounted. Even the Chinese government, which owns the longtime paraquat maker Syngenta, halted use of the pesticide a decade ago after conducting its own studies on paraquat safety and finding troubling results. [Click here to read more.](#)

The Erin Brockovich guide to fighting data centers in your back yard

Ken Cook sits down with environmental and consumer advocate Erin Brockovich to talk about the grassroots uprising against AI hyperscale data centers. Erin's famed legal case against Pacific Gas & Electric involving the pollution of a small town's drinking water is one of the environmental movement's most well-known victories and was the subject of the Oscar winning film Erin Brockovich (2000) starring Julia Roberts. [Click here to watch this interview.](#)

Erin's data center map: Brockovichdatacenter.com.

You can always find timely news, event announcements, calls to action and more that's happening across Turtle Island and beyond, engage with us on 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!

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