

PROTECT NATIVE BURIAL MOUNDS

A single burial mound might contain generations of Yesáh ancestors, in some instances around 1,000 individuals, who were laid to rest through specific rituals during ceremonial times. Some of the largest Yesáh mounds reached 15 to 25 ft in height and 30 feet or more in length, and have been visited generation after generation to honor our ancestors.

At least 8 known burial mounds have been desecrated so far by Mountain Valley Pipeline construction in Virginia, and more are threatened every day as construction continues.

NO FOSSIL FUEL EXPANSIONS

BUC-EE'S GAS STATION (ALAMANCE CO.)

Despite outcry from citizens of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation, and experts demonstrating the detrimental impacts to environmental and community health posed by the project, the Mebane City Council recently approved a 32.5 acre, 120-pump Buc-ee's gas station to be constructed on top of the Occaneechi Trading Path in Mebane, NC. The fight to stop Buc-ee's is just getting started.

TAKE ACTION: 7DIRECTIONSOFSERVICE.COM

MVP SOUTHGATE (VA. ROCKINGHAM CO.)

6 years into the fight against the proposed methane gas MVP Southgate (an extension off the MVP mainline in VA into NC), developers recently announced major changes to the embattled project, including reducing the length to 31 miles, and pulling out of Alamance County entirely—a testament to our grassroots power and pressure. MVP Southgate is missing necessary permits to begin construction, and have been previously denied permits on environmental justice grounds. TAKE ACTION: STOPMYPSOUTHGATE.COM

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE (VA. WEST VA)

The Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is an incomplete 42-inch fracked gas pipeline project that is steamrolling its way over life-giving water and land across 303 miles, from northern West Virginia to southern Virginia. MVP continually violates both state and federal environmental protection laws, as regulating agencies fail to safeguard communities and water resources. TAKE ACTION: STOPMYP.ORG

TRANSCO SSEP (SOUTHEAST SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT) (VA, NC, SC, AL)

Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company (also known as Williams) recently announced the largest East Coast methane pipeline in a decade, which threatens communities from Virginia to Alabama. The project boosts the short-sighted rush by Southern utilities—such as NC's Duke and Dominion—to build even more fossil fuel infrastructure, and undermines our transition to viable energy sources like solar and wind. TAKE ACTION: NOSSEP.DRG

MORIAH ENERGY CENTER LNG (PERSON CO., NC)

Dominion Energy intends to place two liquified natural gas (LNG) facilities in Person County, NC, despite overwhelming public outcry. In addition to clear-cutting hundreds of acres, the facility would contaminate groundwater and soil, and spew toxins into the air. Communities surrounding LNG facilities face risks of explosion, increased illnesses and negative mental health impacts. TAKE ACTION: WWW.NOMEC.ORG

PROTECT SACRED PLACES, PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS

Despite the urgent necessity to phase out fossil fuels, the Southeast is facing an onslaught of methane gas expansion projects, including the Mountain Valley Pipeline, MVP Southgate and a new multi-state Transco Pipeline (the largest in a decade). Southern utilities are rushing to construct more fossil fuel infrastructure, while the next largest gas station on earth threatens to pave over the historically significant Occaneechi Trading Path in Mebane, NC.

7 Directions of Service is uniting the frontlines to expose the contradictions between proclaimed climate goals and environmental justice sentiments, and our realities on the ground. Resistance and resilience are inextricable from Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous experiences, surviving centuries of continuous land theft, genocide, cultural erasure, and systemic oppression. We connect the dots between past and present assaults of settler colonialism, fossil fuel expansion, and the climate crisis, and take collective, peaceful action to Protect Sacred Places & Phase Out Fossil Fuels. Learn more at 7directionsofservice.com

PROTECT SACRED PLACES

PROTECT LOWER SAURATOWN

Along the Dan River in so-called Eden, NC, our ancestors lived for hundreds of years in small villages, one of which is known as Lower Sauratown. River clay, shell, and bone were used to shape pots, tools and smoking pipes. Villagers tended peach trees, and constructed hearths and storage pits within the earth.

These villages–like all of Turtle Island–were displaced as a result of violent settler colonial land-grabs. Our ancestors left or hid to escape genocide.

Today, Indigenous people worldwide remain on the frontlines in defense of land, health, and true history. Like our ancestors, we are up against insatiable bullies, such as the fracked gas MVP Southgate, threatening to steamroll over Sacred Places along the Dan River, like Lower Sauratown, and wipe out endemic species like the Roanoke Logperch.

PROTECT THE OCCANEECHI TRADING PATH

The Occaneechi Trading Path ran from the vicinity of current-day Petersburg, VA, to Mobile, AL, and locally, from the Eno River to the Haw River, along today's Old NC 10, Bowden Road, and Old Hillsborough Road to the site of the Hawfields Presbyterian Church on NC Hwy 119.

Like all paths of its kind, this path was more than just a means for trade. It was a way of sharing language, stories, technology and culture. It connected villages, as well as hunting grounds, fishing holes, river crossings, and ceremonial sites, such as burial mounds. Those who traveled along the path would set up camp on elevated grounds and by waterways, and anyone who died while traveling would have been buried on site.

The 32.5 acre Buc-ee's 120-pump gas station is proposed to pave over the Occaneechi Trading Path, a stone's throw from the Hawfields Presbyterian Church, and steps from Back Creek. Despite Buc-ee's and the City of Mebane disgracing the significance of the Trading Path, we honor this Sacred Place through our memory, educating the public, and working to grant it protective status at every level possible.

GLOSSARY

YESÁH CONFEDERACY

A cultural and political group of Eastern Siouan chiefdoms, the original caretakers of the land that we know as the Virginia interior, spanning from Richmond into eastern parts of West Virginia and south into northern North Carolina. Their present day tribal communities include the Monacan (Monascane), Occaneechi, Sappony, Haliwa Saponi and the Ohio Band of Saponi

YESÁ:SAHJ

The language of the Yesáh confederacy. Nearly erased by colonization, Yesáh descendents are slowly piecing together our language through oral history, research and projects like Yesá:sahi Language Project.

VOCABULARY:

MECOURE'ME:CHEN KIHOE (Welcome to all who come here)
BI:LAHÙK (Thank You)
MANI: EN:ISE (Water Is Alive)

"NATURAL" (METHANE) GAS

More accurately called methane or fracked gas, is highly polluting and harmful to health. Methane gas leaks at every stage of its extraction (a process known as fracking), and while being transported through pipelines and compressor stations (toxic facilities that maintain the pressure to push the gas through the lines).

LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)

An energy-intensive liquefied form of methane/fracked gas held at very cold temperatures for storage and overseas transport. The Biden administration recently announced "a temporary pause" on approvals for LNG export projects, a result of decades of frontline and environmental justice communities mobilizing across the country, especially in the Gulf Coast, where a majority of LNG projects are concentrated in predominantly Black communities.

WATERSHED

The area of land that drains to a particular major river or other waterbody. All life is connected through waterways. Fossil fuel projects poison water, and therefore all species–including human beings–are at risk as a result.

SACRED

What does Sacred mean to you?

