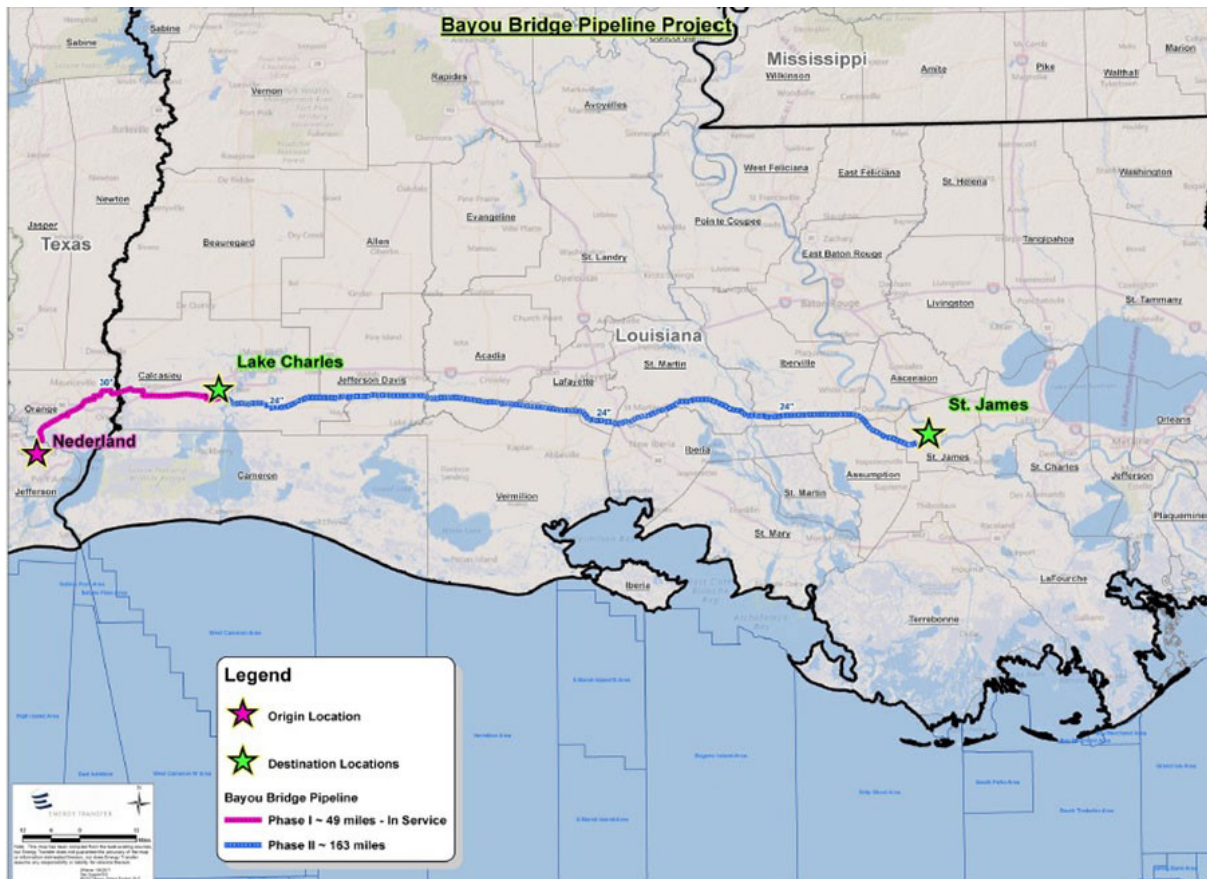


BAYOU BRIDGE PIPELINE

By Claudia Maneggia, Nouveau Policy Associate



(Image courtesy of Energy Transfer Partners)

The Project

In July 2015, Phillips 66 Partners LP (NYSE: PSXP), Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. (NYSE: ETP) and Sunoco Logistics Partners, L.P. (NYSE: SXL) announced a joint project to construct the Bayou Bridge pipeline. The 30" pipeline will deliver crude oil from the Phillips 66 and Sunoco Logistics terminals in Nederland, Texas, to Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Additionally, in October 2015 Bayou Bridge Pipeline, LLC (Bayou Bridge) announced the launch of a binding expansion open season “to assess additional interest in transportation service from Nederland, Texas, to refining markets in Louisiana on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline (BBP)” and to determine the diameter of the pipeline segment from Lake Charles to St. James, LA.

In April 2016, the company started commercial operations on the 30- inch segment. The binding open season closed with the decision to build a 24” pipe segment from Lake Charles to St. James, LA that will begin in the second half of 2017.

Issue

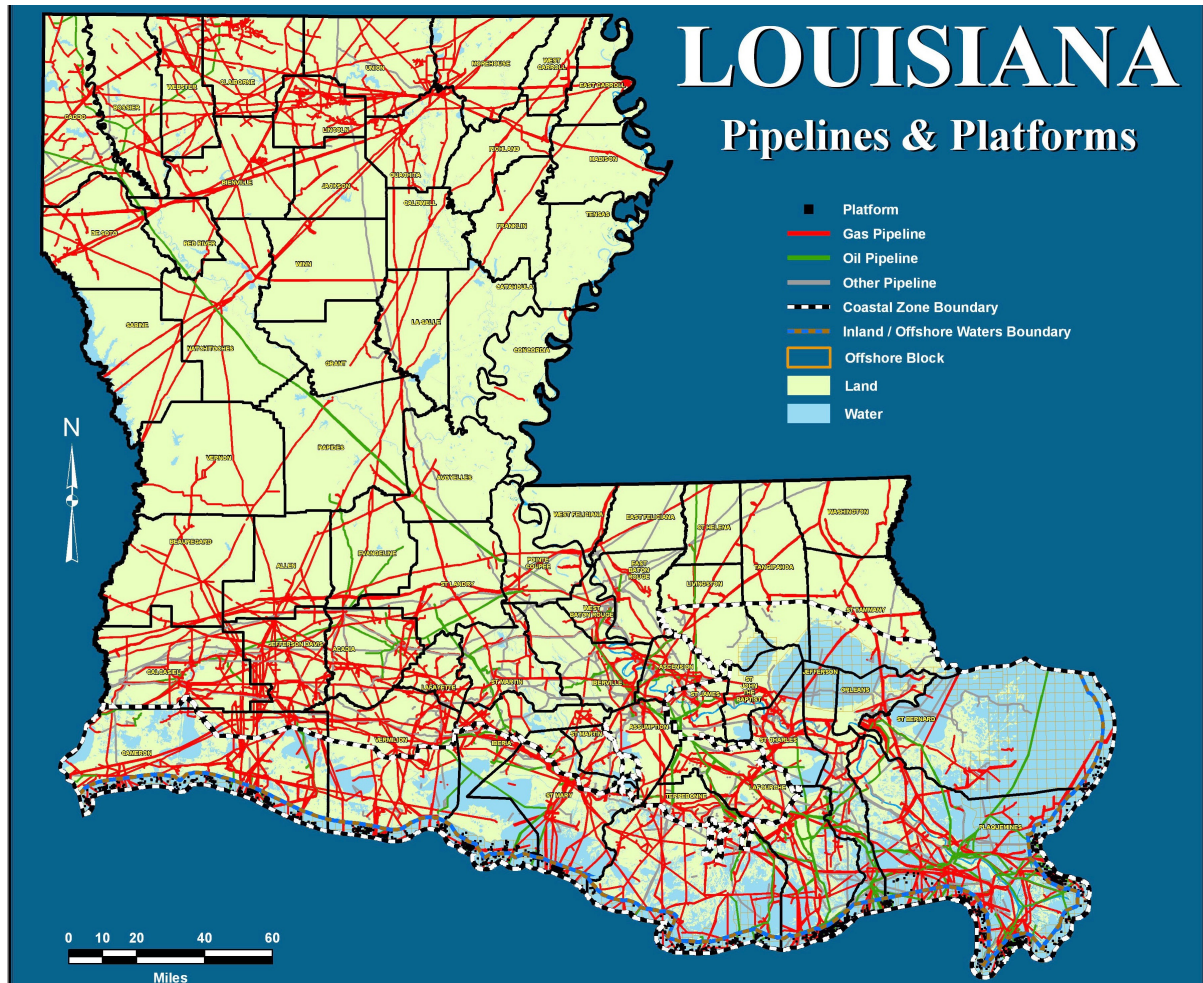
The Bayou Bridge Pipeline is a project involving the same company that is building the Dakota Access Pipeline; this fact is expanding the controversy creating delays for the company. As the #NoDAPL protest, the project is opposed by several environmental groups including:

- The Louisiana Bucket Brigade,
- Sierra Club Delta Chapter in Louisiana,
- Gulf Restoration Network,
- Bold Louisiana,
- 350.org.

Opponents are asking the Army Corps of Engineers to stop Energy Transfer Partners from building the pipeline in Louisiana. The segment of the controversy is the last one, the 24” pipe from Lake Charles to St. James that is supposed to start in the second half of 2017.

The protest is currently contained as protesters are only starting petitions online to express their concerns and they are not initiating a violent movement. Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced a public hearing in Baton Rouge LA, on January 12, 2017.

The resistance group is using the same arguments used in North Dakota; they fear for their water resources and environment. The group affirmed that Louisiana had huge economic and environmental impacts aggravated by climate change and that the state is already crossed by several pipelines that pose a threat to their water supplies.



(Image courtesy of LMOGA, Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association)

The new segments would be a “162.52-mile pipeline project located in Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Vermilion, Lafayette, Iberia, St. Martin, Iberville, Ascension, Assumption, and St. James parishes Louisiana.

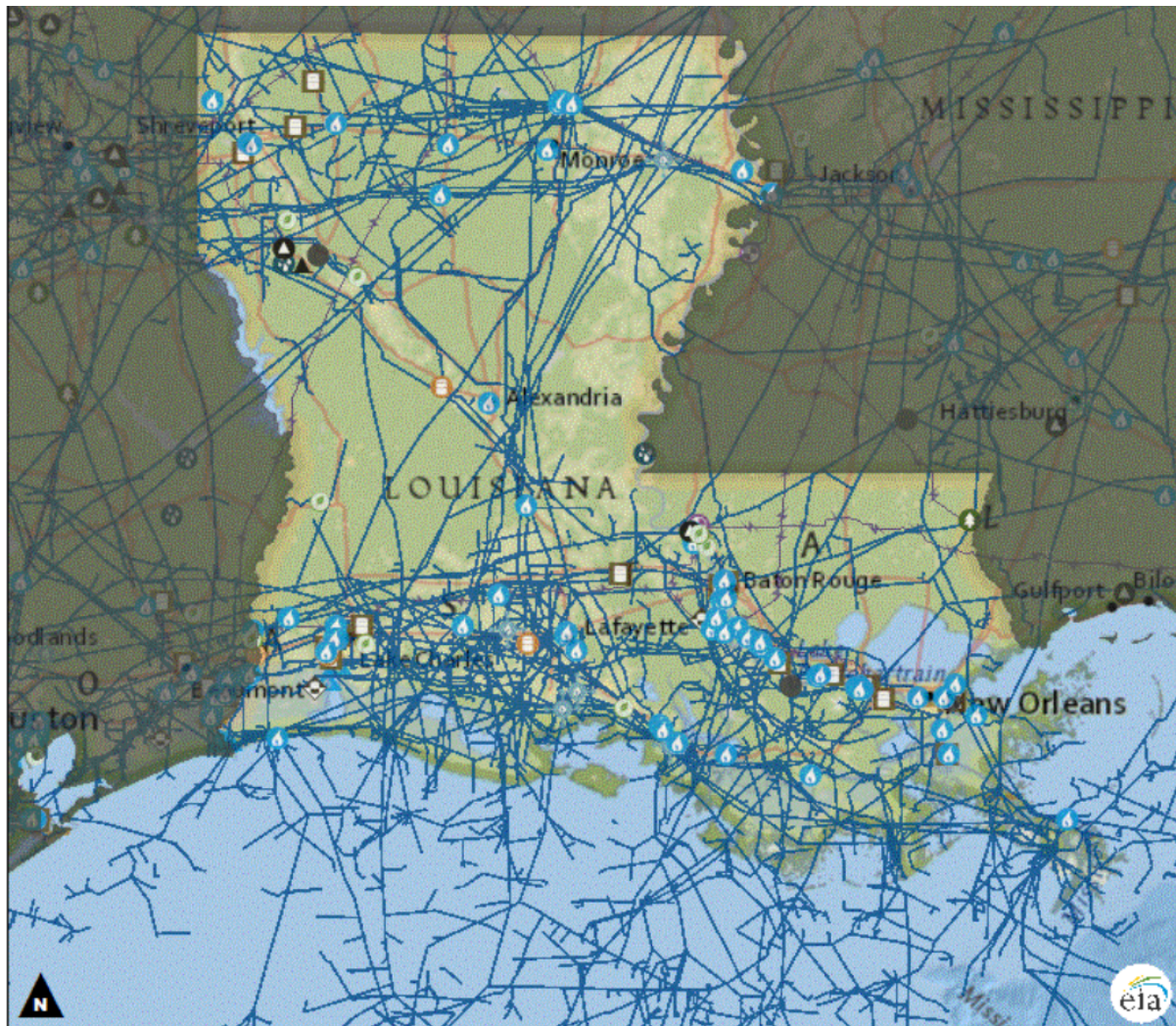


(Image courtesy of theadvocate.com)

The two proposed pump stations are placed in Jefferson Davis and St. Martin parishes. The project extends in the following eight watersheds: Lower Calcasieu (08080206), Mermentau (08080202), Vermilion (08080103), Bayou Teche (08080102), Atchafalaya (08080101), Lower Grand (08070300), West Central Louisiana Coastal (08090302), and East Central Louisiana Coastal (08090301)".¹


Bayou Bridge Pipeline LLC affirmed and reiterated the importance of pipelines for the country in the long-term period. Pipelines are the most efficient way to transfer oil and they are safer than trucks and trains. The pipeline will also help the U.S. in increasing energy independence and will help society by creating new job opportunities.

¹http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Portals/56/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/2015_02295_PNALL.pdf?ver=2016-09-28-151109-950



Grey Base: National Geographic, Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, UNEP-WCMC, USGS,

0 20 40 80 Miles

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Mask |  Hydroelectric Power Plant |  Pumped Storage Power Plant |
|  Surface Coal Mine |  Natural Gas Power Plant |  Solar Power Plant |
|  Underground Coal Mine |  Nuclear Power Plant |  Wind Power Plant |
|  Biomass Power Plant |  Other Power Plant |  Wood Power Plant |
|  Coal Power Plant |  Other Fossil Gases Power Plant |  Petroleum Refinery |
|  Geothermal Power Plant |  Petroleum Power Plant |  Strategic Petroleum Reserve |

(Image courtesy of EIA.gov)

Conclusion

The case of the North Dakota protests has certainly given visibility to environmental advocates; the media impact obtained from the #NoDAPL movement is holding up the cause of other objectors throughout the country, contributing to the formation of new resistance movements. The Bayou Bridge Pipeline is another example of projects that are currently under the spotlight of renewable supporters. Nevertheless, the development of pipeline infrastructures has nothing to do with the future of renewables; they are not in a causal relationship where the increase of pipeline investments, automatically decreases the funds designated to green energies.

The right to join in peaceful protests has always been a pillar of democracy and the First Amendment, but what happened in North Dakota, with protesters creating more damages than the pipeline itself, is not and cannot be a good model for future protests.