Environmental groups sue Corps of Engineers to stop petro pipeline

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ALBANY, GA - The Gulf Restoration Network (GRN), the Mint Riverkeeper, and the Sierra Club have joined forces to stop construction of the controversial Sabal Trail pipeline.

Attorneys for the group filed a lawsuit in the U.S. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Wednesday to withdraw three Clean Water Act permits that would allow construction of the 505-mile Florida-South Carolina pipeline project.

The Sierra Club says that the Sabal Trail project would destroy the very important Florida aquifer, and hundreds of miles of waterways and bodies of water in Florida and Georgia.

“We stand in solidarity with the Gulf Restoration Network and the Sierra Club in opposition to this illegal permit action,” said Mint Riverkeeper Gordon Rogers. “The US Army Corps of Engineers in concert with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and their contractors are using false data to support their permitting.

“Newly released documents indicate that the Army Corps knowingly misled the public and private property owners of their rights to review, analyze, and comment on this expensive and environmentally harmful project.”

“Our homes, aquifers, and wetlands are at great jeopardy,” Rogers said. “Our citizens’ property is being resigned to a vehicle for pipeline gas via the awesome power of eminent domain handed over to an out of state energy company by the federal government. Poor homeowners and landowners in our Florida communities, vulnerable ranchers and plantation owners, and those in the middle are all equally threatened, and equally ignored by the supposed protectors of our environment and our rights. We intend to bring these out of control federal agencies into line with the strongly established laws that protect the American people.”

“We have collected 20,000 signatures in opposition to the pipeline, but the Army Corps is not listening,” said Joanna DeGruchy with Gulf Restoration Network. “This public has continually been left out of the decision making process for this project and that is unacceptable. Our water and communities are too important to risk for an unnecessary pipeline.”

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