



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE: Indigenous Grandmothers and Local Residents to Lead 108-Mile Women's Water Walk Along Proposed Constitution Pipeline Route

Sixteen-day prayer walk will connect communities along proposed pipeline route to protect the water, land, and future generations

BAINBRIDGE, N.Y. — On Saturday, Sept. 19, Indigenous grandmothers, community members, farmers, neighbors, faith leaders, artists, and supporters will set out on a 108-mile prayer walk through communities along the route of the proposed [Constitution Pipeline](#).

The [Women's Water Walk](#) will begin in Oquaga Creek State Park in Bainbridge, N.Y., and continue for 16 days, concluding Oct. 4 in the town of Schoharie. Each day, participants will [walk](#) along the 108-mile route, stopping at rivers, lakes, and other waterways to sing, pray, and make offerings. Led by Indigenous grandmothers and rooted in prayer and positive action, the walk will help raise awareness around the serious threats the pipeline poses to the water, land and future generations. Walkers will also have opportunities to meet residents and deepen connections among communities.

In 2016, New York [denied](#) the project a required Section 401 water quality certification under the Clean Water Act, a decision upheld by a federal appeals court in 2017. The project was ultimately abandoned in 2020. However, in December 2025, Williams asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to revive federal approvals for the pipeline, renewing a project many communities believed had been stopped for good. Now, opponents say the federal government and gas industry are attempting to accelerate the repermitting process and override New York's previous decision.

The pipeline would carve a 124-mile path from the fracking fields of northeast Pennsylvania, crossing Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Schoharie counties in New York before terminating at the existing Wright Compressor Station. There, the related Wright Interconnect Project, proposed by Iroquois Gas Transmission System, would connect the Constitution Pipeline with the Iroquois and Tennessee Gas Pipeline systems for delivery to markets in New York and New England.

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However, the existing interstate pipeline network is already operating at capacity with no room to receive additional gas. According to federal filings, the route would cross more than 300 water bodies across Pennsylvania and New York, trenching through rivers, trout streams and fragile ecosystems and making the health of the region's water a central concern. As no end customers for the Constitution Pipeline have been publicly confirmed, questions have emerged about whether the pipeline could ultimately be used to supply gas for the rapid expansion of energy-intensive data centers in the region. No such connection has been publicly confirmed.

"If constructed, the Constitution Pipeline will cut through my property," said **Tanja Konwinski of Warnerville, N.Y.** "In the event of an explosion, this puts my family within the 800-foot incineration zone. I have spent years removing invasive species from the forests, planting native trees, and nurturing the meadows here. The thought that this would all be destroyed to build an unnecessary fracked gas pipeline to power AI data centers is devastating. This pipeline will tie our region's future to fossil fuels at the exact moment we must do the opposite. I am so grateful to every person walking across New York to raise awareness and help protect our water, farms and forests."

Meanwhile, FERC has opened a [public comment period](#) on its 2026 Environmental Assessment for the proposed Constitution Pipeline and Wright Interconnect Project, with comments due Sept. 21. The renewed proposal has once again brought together residents and organizations across Pennsylvania and New York concerned about the project's potential impacts on water, land, and communities.

"The Women's Water Walk is not political. It's a prayer for our water and a call for us to come together to protect our water, our communities, and future generations. Men are welcome to walk alongside us and support this prayer carried by the women—because ultimately, it is a prayer for all life. It's an honor to walk beside these Indigenous Grandmothers and the prayers that they and their ancestors have carried on this land for generations," said **Bethany Yarrow, a Schoharie County resident** and one of the **lead organizers of the Water Walk**. For many participating in the Women's Water Walk, the journey is about more than opposing a single infrastructure project. Organizers describe the walk as an opportunity to strengthen relationships among people, communities, and the natural places that connect them, while centering Indigenous teachings about water and responsibility to future generations.

"Water has flowed across this Earth for millennia. Water connects us to those who came before us, to one another, to our Earth Mother and to the generations yet to come. We walk to give thanks. We walk to honor the waters. And we accept our responsibility to protect these sacred waters for the children and the seven generations to come," said **Grandmother Clara Soaring Hawk of the Ramapough Munsee Lenape Nation**.

The 108-mile route will carry walkers through the ancestral territories of the Lenape, Susquehannock, and Haudenosaunee Peoples, including the communities of Sidney, Oneonta, Otego, Franklin, Charlotteville, Summit, Middleburgh, and Schoharie.

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“Our creation story comes from the water, so as an Elder woman it is important for me to be present at the Women’s Water Walk,” said **Grandmother Red Spider Woman, Margaret Behan, Cheyenne-Arapaho**.

The Waterfall Unity Alliance, the lead organization coordinating the walk, was formed in 2015 as local residents and Mohawk leaders came together in opposition to the original Constitution Pipeline proposal. More than a decade later, the organization continues to build alliances across communities and cultures to protect water and land. That work has taken on renewed significance with the revival of the pipeline proposal.

“This walk is a confluence of beauty and power,” said **Karenna Gore of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary**. “As we make new friends and enjoy being with the land, we will also be drawing deeply from the wells of our faith and wisdom traditions. Pope Leo XIV just [announced](#) that his September prayer intention is for ‘the care of water,’ as part of the Season of Creation, which will end with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4, the same day the walk ends. For some, this prayer walk may be part of reawakening humanity’s sacred relationship with Earth. For others, it may be an act of responsibility and love for future generations. Others will hear the call to community and belonging in the present day. Whatever the reason, this Women’s Water Walk is right on time because we need to come together and stand for what is real and true and good.”

Organizers emphasize that the Women’s Water Walk is open to people of all backgrounds, genders, faiths, and traditions. Participants do not need to complete the entire 108 mile route. Community members are [invited](#) to walk for an hour, a few miles, a full day, or multiple days. Supporters are also encouraged to join gatherings along the route and welcome walkers as they pass through their communities.

“Water is life. Water is the first medicine. Water transforms, heals, and has memory – and as we walk this journey, I have been reminded that my ancestors lived and loved this landscape just as they loved their children. Owén:nakon Sandra Deer *iontiats* (my name is). I am of the Bear Clan family (*wakskaré:wake*). I am a mother, grandmother, great grandmother (*Teiokotere’serané:ten*), and a Moon Dancer in the Olmec culture. As a Haudenosaunee, Kanien’kehá:ka (Mohawk) woman, my responsibility is to preserve lands and waters for those “faces yet to come”. This walk is not only to raise awareness regarding land and water protection, it is a Prayer – a Prayer that all Water, and its land, be protected and respected for the coming generations as well as the wildlife, plants and medicines that thrive within these natural ecosystems,” said **Owén:nakon Sandra Deer**.

The journey will begin Saturday, Sept. 19, at Oquaga Creek State Park in Bainbridge, N.Y., and conclude Sunday, Oct. 4, at Lily Park in Schoharie, N.Y. Indigenous leaders, organizers, and community participants are available for interviews before and throughout the 16-day walk.

Information about the route, daily schedule, participation, and ways to support the walk is available at womenswaterwalk.org. Additional press materials, including photos and media resources, are available at <https://www.womenswaterwalk.org/press>. Members of the media interested in arranging interviews or covering the walk should contact the media representatives listed above.

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About the Waterfall Unity Alliance

[Waterfall Unity Alliance](#) is a women-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Skóhare (the Schoharie Valley) in upstate New York, the ancestral territory of the Kanien'kehá (Mohawk People). Its mission is to protect Skóhare and all Earth, build alliances across movements and cultures, and help create solutions to the existential challenges of our time. The organization supports projects that restore relationships of reciprocity and respect and uphold traditional knowledge and values as a way of healing the planet and society.

Supporting Organizations

The Women's Water Walk is led by Waterfall Unity Alliance with support from the Center for Oil & Gas Organizing, Center for Earth Ethics, Copal, Frack Action, Sanctuary Earth, Earth Guardians, Riverkeeper, Hartwick College, Nanixitemikimetzli, the Stop the CON Coalition, The Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Food and Water Watch, and other partner organizations working to protect the water and communities of New York.