





The Lumbee Tribe of NC and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline







The Lumbee

- The Lumbee is the largest Tribe east of the Mississippi River
- Current Tribal Enrollment is over 60,000
- Recognized by North Carolina in 1888
- Not Fully Federally Recognized, Lumbee Act 1956
- Tribal Territory consists for four counties in Southeastern, North Carolina
 - Cumberland
 - Hoke
 - Robeson
 - Scotland





Land in Lumbee Country

- The Lumbee do not have any trust lands. Any land owned by the Tribal Government or Tribal members is owned in fee simple.
- Throughout the Tribal territory there are traditional tribal communities.
 Communities where the Lumbee have lived and made their lives for generations
 - Prospect
 - Saddletree
 - Pembroke
 - Union Chapel
 - Back Swamp
 - Hawkeye
 - Wagram









The Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Joint Venture between Duke Energy and Dominion Energy
- A natural gas pipeline slated to run 600 miles beginning in West Virginia, through Virginia, and ending in Robeson County, North Carolina
- The project began in 2013
- Cancelled in 2020







The ACP in Lumbee Land



- The planned route crossed through sites sacred to the Lumbee, as well as watersheds were the community gets its water
- The ACP ended in Prospect, NC, a traditional Lumbee Community





"Tribal Consultation??"

- No meaningful consultation with the Tribal Government
 - Pre Filing notices came for Chair "Paula Brooks
- In 2018, ACP offered money if the Tribe would not oppose the pipeline and waive right to bring any claims against the ACP







- Tribe worked with the UNC American Indian Center and UNC Law School to submit a comment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 - Lack of Tribal Consultation
 - Not including the tribal government in emergency preparedness
 - Lack of Notice to the Tribe in the event of discovery of archeological or burial sites.
- Tribal Government held Community Meetings to speak directly with members
- The ACP project was ultimately cancelled in 2020, developers cited concerns about the cost of the project





Increasing Tribal Capacity

- Tribal Government saw the need for long term solutions going forward
 - Creating internal process to deal with Government Consultations
 - Creation of the first Lumbee Tribal Historical Preservation Office
 - Created Tribal Council Committee, Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee
 - Increased relationships with Federal, State, and Local governmental agencies
 - Partnerships with Local and State Institutions as well as non-profit groups to expand capacity
 - Utilize Tribal Members with expertise



Thank you!



