

The consequence of protesters being met with with water cannons, pepper spray, tear gas, and rubber bullets is significant for society because twenty-six people were hospitalized and more than 300 were injured. The Standing Rock Medic & Healer Council said that injuries from the “mass casualty incident” included multiple bone fractures from projectiles fired by police, a man with internal bleeding from a rubber bullet injury, a man who suffered a grand mal seizure, and a woman who was struck in the face with a rubber bullet and whose vision was compromised. The majority of the patients suffered hypothermia, a result of being soaked by water cannons, the group said. Civil rights groups are upset by the use of water cannons in below-freezing weather. “It’s absolutely a blatant disregard for the safety and humanity of unarmed protesters,” said Jen Cook, policy director for the ACLU of North Dakota. “In combination with other tactics, it’s a misuse of less-than-lethal weaponry ... It’s unjustifiable.”

1

The consequence of the Standing Rock Sioux being able to attract support from hundreds of people all over the country and internationally is significant for society because it has made the world more aware about the issue of the pipeline and consequently had the construction of the pipeline temporarily put on hold. In 2017, unfortunately, the construction continued.

2

The social action has not met its intended purpose.

Awareness had been raised about the issue of the Dakota Access pipeline with a lot of local attention and support from Native American organizations, politicians, environmental and civil rights groups including the Black Lives Matter movement, indigenous leaders from the Amazon Basin of South America, Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, and the 2016 Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein and her running mate Ajamu Baraka. This resulted in the pipeline construction being temporarily halted by the Obama administration to allow for talks between tribal leaders and the pipeline company. Barack Obama said “We’re monitoring this closely. My view is that there is a way for us to accommodate sacred lands of Native Americans. And I think that right now the Army Corps is examining whether there are ways to reroute this pipeline. We’re going to let it play out for several more weeks and determine whether or not this can be resolved in a way that I think is properly attentive to the traditions of First Americans.”

3

However, on January 24, 2017, President Donald Trump, signed a presidential memorandum to advance approval of the pipeline construction. The pipeline was granted permission to go ahead. The protesters were asked to leave the protest site. Although many left voluntarily, ten people were arrested. The protesters had lost. Construction of the pipeline was completed by April.

3