

Palmetto Pipeline

- **PROJECT TYPE:**
Oil pipeline
- **LOCATION:**
Belton, South Carolina, through Georgia to Jacksonville, Florida
- **INVESTMENT COST:**
\$1 billion
- **ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE:**
Spring 2016
- **ORIGINAL OPERATING DATE:**
First Quarter of 2017

OVERVIEW

- In August 2014, Kinder Morgan announced the launch of the Palmetto Project, a 360-mile pipeline that would transport gasoline, diesel and ethanol from the Gulf Coast to consumers in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.¹
- KIITG activists immediately launched a coalition called “Push Back the Pipeline,” involving Sierra Club and several local groups, to stop Palmetto.² The group employed a relatively new tactic focused on using eminent domain to block the project. In June 2016, The Rockefeller Family Fund and the Park Foundation, along with GreenLaw, sponsored a conference in Atlanta that brought together traditional KIITG activists with property rights advocates.³
- An interview with KIITG activist Jane Kleeb described the effort: “Kleeb believes the time is right for a national organizing effort against the use of eminent domain for the construction of energy pipelines. ‘We have all the pieces. We have all the legal experts. We have the advocates and landowners. We have active pipeline fights, which you need in order to build grassroots momentum to be pressuring politicians. But to succeed on the eminent domain front, more funds will be needed. I think the foundations are ready. It will have to be a multi-million-dollar effort. We will need to convince other donors to come to the table to fund this effort.’”⁴

“If we had talked about ending fossil fuel use — then the landowners wouldn’t have been with us.”⁵ – Savannah Riverkeeper Executive Director Tonya Bonitatibus

LOST OPPORTUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$3.8↓
BILLION**
in GDP impact*



22,991↓
total full-time
equivalent job
years*



**\$850↓
MILLION**
in lost tax
revenue*



**\$14↓
MILLION**
lost annual state
and local tax
revenue during
operations**



Image from [Push Back The Pipeline](#)

STATUS:

- The activists convinced several landowners along the route to mobilize in opposition to the pipeline, and in April 2016, the project was suspended after the Georgia legislature passed a bill tightening eminent domain restrictions.⁶

* Number refers to total economic impact from construction/operations/upstream, through August 2018

** Self-reported by project sponsor

Sources:

Global Energy Institute analysis

[USC Economic Impact Analysis](#)

[2016 Charleston Regional Business Journal article](#)

[2016 Augusta Chronicle article](#)

1. [Kinder Morgan Announces Open Season for Palmetto Project to Serve New Southeast Markets](#), Kinder Morgan press release, 8/4/14

2. [Push Back the Pipeline website](#).

3. [Anti-Pipeline Activists, Eminent Domain Experts Gather in Atlanta](#), Ohio Gas Association, 6/19/16

4. Ibid.

5. [How the Kinder Morgan Palmetto Pipeline Was Defeated](#), *Corporate Crime Reporter* article, 11/21/16

6. [Palmetto Pipeline project suspended](#), *The Greenville News*, 4/1/16