

## 6 Biggest Activism Hurdles Facing Energy Production Companies

After receiving regulatory and all necessary permitting approvals, many energy companies think they're in the clear to begin construction without worry. Unfortunately, gaining approval doesn't mean the legal fight is over.

Special interest groups may employ many different tactics, but they all share one common goal — to interfere with a company's operations, often times, through whatever means necessary. When faced with these challenges, it is paramount that energy companies understand their options. We have decades of deep experience guiding energy production companies through these activism challenges. Here's just a glimpse into what hurdles energy companies face on the road to natural resource development.



### 1 Malicious Trespassing & Property Destruction

Trespassing, malicious vandalism, destroying property and even physically chaining oneself to a piece of machinery are all tactics opposition groups will use. While illegal, these stunts can cause production delays and PR nightmares.



### 2 Anti-SLAPP Statutes

There are now 29 states with anti-SLAPP regulations that impose penalties on organizations that file lawsuits deemed as strategically limiting public participation in a community issue. Local politicians are currently working on strengthening these rules that can complicate energy companies' legal strategies.



### 3 Permitting Challenges & Frivolous Litigation

Activist groups challenge permitting applications with absolutely no basis other than to delay construction and development. Similarly, frivolous litigation claims that carry little merit can create legal headaches and rack up extra costs. While these lawsuits have very low chances of being won, they must be approached with the right expertise and strategy.



### 4 Social Media Sway

Interest groups have become masters of leveraging social media to sway public opinion. Misinformation spreads like wildfire on social media, and even one post has the power to go viral causing lasting damage to a company's reputation.



### 5 Props, Press and Popular People

Interest groups have been known to leverage phony props at press conferences and even tap like-minded celebrities to drum up press coverage. Even if slightly misleading, these tactics have proven effective in generating negative media coverage and influencing public opinion.



### 6 Access to Deep Pockets

Activism groups seeking to stop production have more access to funding than ever before. With greater financial backing, these groups can lobby politicians and regulators more effectively and even pay for more effective public relations campaigns.