



ABRA Update #118 – February 24, 2017

Large Turnouts for FERC Comments Session on the DEIS

The first seven public comment sessions conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the Draft Environment Impact Statement for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) have had strong attendance. This week, three sessions in Virginia drew nearly 60 persons in Farmville, over 160 in Lovingson and over 130 in Staunton. The preponderance of those commenting in all three locations opposed to the ACP.



Kenda Hanuman of Friends of Buckingham and Kirk Bowers of the Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter, outside of the FERC hearing in Farmville, VA. ABRA-member groups held organized activities associated with many of the FERC sessions.

The comment opportunities conclude next week with three more sessions, all from 5-9 pm:

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| Tuesday, February 28 | Monterey, VA, Highland Center, 61 Highland Center Drive |
| Wednesday, March 1 | Elkins, WV, Gandy Dance Theatre, 359 Beverly Pike |
| Thursday, March 2 | Marlinton, WV, Marlinton Community Wellness Center, 320 9 th St. |

Please support ABRA's important work by clicking [here](#).

All are reminded that whether you testify at one of the hearings or not, written comments are strongly encouraged to be submitted to FERC by or before the April 6. Details as to how to comment and other relevant information on the DEIS are contained in a background piece ABRA has prepared as a resource: [DEIS: What is it? What's in it? What you can do!](#)

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Crowd delivers feedback on Atlantic Coast Pipeline to FERC

- Nelson County Times – 2/22/17

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/crowd-delivers-feedback-on-atlantic-coast-pipeline-to-ferc/article_6d98bee6-f977-11e6-af00-5b9f23b4f928.html

More than 100 people made verbal comments while dozens more entered written comments about the DEIS

FERC holds public hearing in Nelson County to help determine future of Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- WSLs110 News – 2/22/17

<http://wsls.com/2017/02/22/ferc-holds-public-hearing-in-nelson-county-to-help-determine-future-of-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>

This was one of the last public hearings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission releases its final report and recommendation on the pipeline

Harrison County Commission writes letter in support of Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header project

- The Exponent Telegram – 2/21/17

http://www.theet.com/news/free/harrison-county-commission-writes-letter-in-support-of-atlantic-coast/article_b2739edb-100b-5af1-b241-181ad2d8c122.html

Letter points out the broader economic benefits of the pipeline projects for West Virginia and other states directly impacted

Opponents of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline: “Nobody is saying what’s happening to the little people”

- NC Policy Watch – 2/16/17

<http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2017/02/16/opponents-atlantic-coast-pipeline-nobody-saying-whats-happening-little-people/>

First of two-part story about the potential impacts of the ACP on people and the environment...this one discusses environmental justice issues

Part 2:

<http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2017/02/23/atlantic-coast-pipeline-will-forever-change-forests-wetlands-rivers-north-carolina/>

Augusta County in Dominion’s crosshairs

- News Leader – 2/17/17

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2017/02/17/augusta-county-dominions-crosshairs/98068382/>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Sligh: Virginia's governor can and must protect us from bad pipeline projects

- The Roanoke Times – 2/23/17

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/sligh-virginia-s-governor-can-and-must-protect-us-from/article_ob0aaa73-2foe-5632-a724-11628fo8f26f.html

Discusses VA governor's role and responsibility in relation to pipeline projects, rebuts recent editorial that claimed the governor has no say in the matter

Bill that allows more WV water pollution advances

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 2/22/17

<http://www.wvgazette.com/news-politics/20170222/bill-that-allows-more-wv-water-pollution-advances>

"This doesn't increase jobs. It doesn't increase revenue. The only thing it does increase is pollution." - Delegate Shawn Fluharty, D-Ohio

Former Virginia AG Cuccinelli, lawmakers pressure McAuliffe on utility rate freeze

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 2/21/17

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/former-virginia-ag-cuccinelli-lawmakers-pressure-mcauliffe-on-utility-rate/article_91554196-23c5-50b8-a25b-7ceb5fc3b146.html

Governor claims to back effort to undo the 2015 rate freeze for Dominion and Appalachian Power...but thus far it's only talk

Legislative silence greets effort to push pipeline condemnation cases into state courts

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 2/22/17

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/general-assembly/legislative-silence-greets-effort-to-push-pipeline-condemnation-cases-into/article_45660186-d3d4-5d80-96ef-ae9bc8fa535.html

General Assembly declines to consider resolution encouraging the use of state courts rather than federal courts for land condemnation cases

LG candidate Susan Platt opposes Atlantic Coast, Mountain Valley pipelines

- Augusta Free Press – 2/22/17

<http://augustafreepress.com/lg-candidate-susan-platt-opposes-atlantic-coast-mountain-valley-pipelines/>

Will Pipelines Destroy Our Thru-Hikes?

- Outside Magazine – 2/22/17

<https://www.outsideonline.com/2157816/will-pipelines-destroy-appalachian-trail>

A proposed 300-mile natural gas pipeline would cut a swath across the Appalachian Trail and could undermine protections for other National Scenic Trails across the country

Big Picture:

Senate Mulls 'Kill Switch' For Obama Methane Rule

- Beloit Daily news – 2/23/17

<http://www.beloitdailynews.com/article/20170223/AP/302239802>

U.S. Senate is expected to vote soon on whether to use the Congressional Review Act to kill an Obama administration climate regulation that cuts methane emissions from oil and gas wells on federal land

As Construction Near Standing Rock Restarts, Pipeline Fights Flare Across The U.S.

- The Intercept – 2/19/17

<https://theintercept.com/2017/02/19/as-construction-near-standing-rock-restarts-pipeline-fights-flare-across-the-u-s/>

Will protest camps become the new normal for pipeline projects?

Related:

- <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2017/02/17/atlantic-sunrise-pipeline-opponents-begin-encampment/>

President Trump Takes Aim at the Environment

- The New York Times – 2/23/17

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/23/opinion/president-trump-takes-aim-at-the-environment.html?ref=opinion>

Executive order gives polluters big savings...saves approximately zero jobs

Pennsylvania Environmentalists Cite "Irreparable Harm" in Bid to Halt Mariner East 2 Gas Pipeline

- DeSmog – 2/21/17

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/02/21/pennsylvania-environmentalists-cite-irreparable-harm-bid-halt-mariner-east-2-gas-pipeline>

Exxon Relents, Wipes Oil Sands Reserves From Its Books

- Inside Climate News – 2/23/17

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/22022017/exxon-mobil-tar-sands-alberta-canada-climate-change-oil-prices>

Expect more of this in the near future...fossil-heavy power producers likely to be hit, long-term...see below

Related:

- <https://qz.com/916572/germanys-renewable-energy-boom-is-making-life-miserable-for-fossil-fuel-producers-like-rwe-and-eon/>

NATO Renewable Energy To Penetrate Into Russian Petro-State

- Clean Technica – 2/23/17

<https://cleantechnica.com/2017/02/23/nato-renewable-energy-penetrate-russian-petro-state/>

A “third way” or “playing the long game”...a risky bet, but one with long-term potential

States Lead the Way Toward 100% Renewable Energy

- EcoWatch – 2/23/17

<http://www.ecowatch.com/renewable-energy-jacobson-2278462825.html>

Though the current administration is determined to wipe away recent progress on climate change and renewables, it cannot prevent states and localities from acting in their own long-term interests