



ABRA Update #25 – April 23, 2015

Consumer Energy Alliance Submits 20,000+ Pro-Pipeline Comments To FERC

The Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), a Houston-based organization that is a self-proclaimed grass-roots pro-energy group, announced on April 21 that it had submitted “more than 20,000 comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging for the swift approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.” The CEA press release (<http://consumerenergyalliance.org/southeast-consumers-support-improved-energy-availability-economic-growth/>) said that 7,600+ comments came from Virginia, 3000+ from West Virginia and 10,000+ from North Carolina. As of Thursday morning (4/23), the FERC e-library does not yet list these letters. As soon as they appear, ABRA will exam the letters to determine who sent them and what was said.

CEA was organized in 2008 as a 401 (c) (4) organization that proclaims itself as “the voice of the energy consumer” that provides “consumers with sound, unbiased information on U.S. and global energy issues.” It’s funding comes from the energy producers and users. According to the organization’s latest available tax return (2013), it spent over \$3 million, the largest part of which was \$1.3 million to HBW Resources, a Washington-DC consulting firm specializing in energy advocacy (<http://hbwresources.com/>). HBW provides management services for CEA. More about CEA can be found at <http://consumerenergyalliance.org/> and <http://desmogblog.com/consumer-energy-alliance-front-group-exposed-tyee-and-salon>.

In The News...

ACP/Local Concern:

Battle escalates over extending comment period on proposed pipeline

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4/22/15
http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_6ed2d9f8-7a59-5158-b4c6-7ae5f3264ebf.html

Kaine: Natural gas key to reducing carbon pollution

- News Leader – 4/20/15
<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2015/04/17/us-senator-tim-kaine-interview/25934415/>
Kaine generally supports the ACP and fracking, but not the latter on public lands. Supports NG as a bridge fuel.

Wintergreen Property Owners Association Joins Pipeline Opposition

- NBC29.com – 4/21/15
<http://www.nbc29.com/story/28860223/wintergreen-property-owners-association-joins-pipeline-opposition>
WPOA notifying members of potential for ACP to run right through their properties. Opposed.

Charlottesville Realtors Weigh in on Atlantic Coast Pipeline Property Rights Concerns

- NBC29.com – 4/21/15

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/28859584/caar-weighs-in-on-atlantic-coast-pipeline-property-rights-concerns>

Voicing concerns over property rights but not taking official stand for or against.

Dominion's Natural Gas Gamble Looks Risky for Ratepayers

- The Energy Collective 4/18/15

<http://theenergycollective.com/ivy-main/2216616/dominion-s-natural-gas-gamble-looks-risky-ratepayers>

With gas prices low and rig counts falling (an reserves possibly overstated), who will pay for the ACP and similar infrastructure if the bottom drops out. (Hint: it WON'T be Dominion or its shareholders!)

Regional/Other Projects (MVP, AppCon, etc.):

W.Va. landowners battle pipeline company over property rights

- E&E Publishing – 4/21/15

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060017099>

Residents testing WV state law on Eminent Domain. MVP filing suit against 100+ property owners for surveys.

Pipeline Opposed by Monroe County Historic Landmarks Commission

- WV Public Broadcasting – 4/17/15

<http://wvpublic.org/post/pipeline-opposed-monroe-county-historic-landmarks-commission>

CHLC opposed to MVP now that route is in their backyard.

With More Proposed Pipelines, Here's a Look at West Virginia's Recent Accidents

- WV Public Broadcasting – 3/19/15 – *Old but interesting*

<http://wvpublic.org/post/more-proposed-pipelines-heres-look-west-virginias-recent-accidents>

Basic description of costs of recent pipeline accidents in WV including a handy map.

Energy commission schedules scoping meetings for Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 4/17/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/energy-commission-schedules-scoping-meetings-for-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_48b131a5-95f5-5b48-a705-9cf88fcfc1e6.html

Scoping meetings to begin May 4th in WV.

Big Picture:

Roper: Is Marcellus play too near its peak to justify three huge new pipelines?

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4/14/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/letters/roper-is-marcellus-play-too-near-its-peak-to-justify/article_17d1dfa6-1006-5bf4-b4b9-9eb5a89c8e53.html

Digging Ruptures PG&E Pipeline; 14 Injured – NaturalGasIntel.com – 4-20-15

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/102034-digging-ruptures-pge-pipeline-14-injured>

New Federal policy promotes modernization of natural gas pipelines

- Examiner.com – 4/17/15

<http://www.examiner.com/article/new-federal-policy-promotes-modernization-of-natural-gas-pipelines>