



## **ABRA Update #28 – May 12, 2015**

### **ABRA Planning Committee Created**

A six-member Planning Committee has been named to consider how the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance should operate and be organized in the future. The creation of the committee is a result of recommendations made at the March 7 ABRA membership meeting. The principal tasks assigned to the committee are to address three principal questions:

- 1) What should be ABRA's objectives and activities beyond 2015?
- 2) How should ABRA be organized and led beyond 2015?
- 3) How should ABRA be financed beyond 2015?

Members of the Planning Committee, three from the ABRA Steering Committee (\*) and three persons not on the Steering Committee, are:

Lynn Cameron, Friends of Shenandoah Mountain

\*Faye Cooper, Cooper Conservation Advisors LLC

Swami Dayananda, Yogaville

Elise Keaton, Greenbrier River Watershed Association

\*Ernie Reed, Wild Virginia

\*Judy Rodd, Friends of Blackwater

Lew Freeman, ABRA Chair, will serve ex-officio on the committee and coordinate its activities.

A report from the group is expected by July 15. Any ABRA members who have ideas to share with Planning Committee are invited to send them to Ernie Read at [lec@wildvirginia.org](mailto:lec@wildvirginia.org).

### ***In the News:***

#### **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

##### **Forest Service approves more pipeline surveys**

- The News Virginian – 5/7/15

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/local/forest-service-approves-more-pipeline-surveys/article\\_d19061ba-f433-11e4-b7f9-6315fd591c1a.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/local/forest-service-approves-more-pipeline-surveys/article_d19061ba-f433-11e4-b7f9-6315fd591c1a.html)

4.4 miles of additional alternative routes approved for surveys

##### **Dominion shareholders pepper CEO with questions about the proposed natural gas pipeline**

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 5/6/15

[http://www.richmond.com/business/article\\_c5ee349a-f72f-588c-9ccb-f7b67ad86688.html](http://www.richmond.com/business/article_c5ee349a-f72f-588c-9ccb-f7b67ad86688.html)

More of the usual lip service from Dominion at shareholders' meeting

##### **Dominion must find safe pipeline route – Letter to the Editor**

- The Richmond Times Dispatch – 5/6/15

[http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article\\_4f0378a2-03bd-56b5-803a-83bb679b407b.html](http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_4f0378a2-03bd-56b5-803a-83bb679b407b.html)

SELC's Greg Buppert's letter on the routing process

## **Pipeline impact stretches far**

- The News Virginian 5/7/15

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest\\_columnists/pipeline-impact-stretches-far/article\\_121d12ce-f433-11e4-8d35-4ba7a0856b1c.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest_columnists/pipeline-impact-stretches-far/article_121d12ce-f433-11e4-8d35-4ba7a0856b1c.html)

Discusses shortcomings in the ICF economic study and unmentioned economic affects

## **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

### **Groups request 90-day extension on ‘scoping period’ for pipeline**

- Bluefield Daily Telegraph – 5/8/15

[http://www.bdtonline.com/news/groups-request--day-extension-on-scoping-period-for-pipeline/article\\_17e48a00-f534-11e4-b930-874ead1a1c15.html](http://www.bdtonline.com/news/groups-request--day-extension-on-scoping-period-for-pipeline/article_17e48a00-f534-11e4-b930-874ead1a1c15.html)

### **Our view: more evidence that we don’t count**

- Roanoke Times – 5/12/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-more-evidence-that-we-don-t-count/article\\_fea05f78-a951-5823-9c0c-47288565ad8b.html](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-more-evidence-that-we-don-t-count/article_fea05f78-a951-5823-9c0c-47288565ad8b.html)

Noting the difference in opposition support between ACP and MVP – some valid concerns

### **Residents urge against Mountain Valley Pipeline over environmental concerns**

- Roanoke Times – 5/5/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/ferc-meeting-residents-urge-against-mountain-valley-pipeline-over-environmental/article\\_2bb93cdo-ac61-5df3-b10d-7b95cda8bc42.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/ferc-meeting-residents-urge-against-mountain-valley-pipeline-over-environmental/article_2bb93cdo-ac61-5df3-b10d-7b95cda8bc42.html)

### **From thorny to thornier: Pipeline companies tap state law to gain access to properties**

- Roanoke Times – 5/8/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin\\_county/from-thorny-to-thornier-pipeline-companies-tap-state-law-to/article\\_c7975fcf-4257-5467-bf18-ed633a89d21c.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/from-thorny-to-thornier-pipeline-companies-tap-state-law-to/article_c7975fcf-4257-5467-bf18-ed633a89d21c.html)

Dominion contractors surveying without notice – discussion of related legal issues

### **Forest Service surveys pipeline segment**

- SWVA Today – 5/9/15

[http://www.swvatoday.com/news/wytheville/article\\_ab7bcea6-f424-11e4-ba10-bf441cc9eeb2.html](http://www.swvatoday.com/news/wytheville/article_ab7bcea6-f424-11e4-ba10-bf441cc9eeb2.html)

Forest Service issues survey permit for 10.5 miles of Jefferson National Forest

## **Big Picture:**

### **Markey seeks fix for old and leaking natural gas pipelines**

- The Dedham Transcript – 5/7/15

<http://dedham.wickedlocal.com/article/20150507/NEWS/150507161/?Start=1>

Bill seeks to replace old and leaking pipelines that waste \$Billions/year in lost gas – that we pay for

### **Reliance on natural gas: the pros and cons**

- WickedLocal – Chatham – 5/8/15

<http://chatham.wickedlocal.com/article/20150508/NEWS/150506953/?Start=1>

Increased use of gas for generation can lower prices but comes at many costs

### **Gas pipeline critics warn of health hazards**

- Times-Herald Record – 5/8/15

<http://www.recordonline.com/article/20150508/NEWS/150509512/-1/RSS777>

Gas companies say that compressor stations are safe...residents disagree

### **FERC meeting: Hints of potential compromise emerge in new energy bill drafts**

- Environment and Energy Publishing – 5/7/15

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060018146>

Lots of new proposals promoting gas, infrastructure, some restrictions on gas companies

### **Environmentalists sue FERC over Cove Point LNG project**

- State Impact: Pennsylvania (NPR) – 5/7/15

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/05/07/environmentalists-sue-ferc-over-cove-point-lng-project/>

After re-hearing rejected, opposition groups file suit

### **Dominion names Robert Blue as senior officer**

- The State journal – 5/8/15

<http://www.statejournal.com/story/29015021/dominion-names-robert-blue-as-senior-officer>