

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

Dominion Transmission, Inc.)	Docket No. PF15-5-000
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC)	Docket No. PF15-6-000

**RESPONSE OF
DOMINION TRANSMISSION, INC. AND ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE, LLC
OPPOSING REQUESTS FOR DELAY AND REINITIATION
OF COMMENT PERIOD**

Pursuant to Rule 213 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the “Commission” or “FERC”), 1/ Dominion Transmission, Inc. (“DTI”) and Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (“Atlantic”) hereby respectfully respond in opposition to the requests to delay the issuance of the Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) and to extend the period for comments for the proposed Supply Header Project and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project (collectively referred to herein as the “Projects”) as specified in the Commission’s “Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Supply Header Project and Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings” issued in these proceedings on February 27, 2015 (“Notice”). The requests were submitted by the Friends of Nelson, The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition and The Southern Environmental Law Center, Shenandoah Valley Network, and the Augusta County Alliance and Appalachian Mountain Advocates.

The Notice explains that the Commission shall be preparing an EIS to assess the environmental effects of the construction and operation of the Projects in accordance with the

1/ 18 C.F.R. § 385.213 (2014).

requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”). The Notice announced the opening of the scoping process used to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the Projects, and explained the proposed Projects and the Commission’s procedures. Among other things, the Commission requested public comments on the scope of the issues to be addressed in the EIS and explained that the comments received would be considered during the preparation of the EIS (the “scoping period”). The Notice establishes an April 28, 2015 deadline for public comments (the “April 28 deadline”).

DTI and Atlantic oppose the requests to extend the comment period. By the close of the scoping period, the Commission will have provided ample opportunity for interested participants to comment on the issues they believe the Commission should consider in the EIS. Commission Staff has represented that they typically provide a thirty-day scoping period for comments on proposed projects; in this instance, the Commission is providing twice as much time for interested members of the public to comment. ^{2/} Commission Staff has also publicly stated that it will consider comments filed after the April 28 deadline. ^{3/} Finally, participants will have an opportunity to intervene in the certificate application dockets for the Projects once they are established, file comments on the proposed applications, and submit comments on the EIS itself, when it is issued. Therefore, no commenter will be prejudiced by adherence to the schedule as proposed in the Notice.

DTI and Atlantic have been working with the Commission for several months to ensure that they have provided all information pertinent to the FERC Pre-Filing Process. This includes detailed information regarding the proposed and alternate pipeline routes, which was included in

^{2/} See Comments of Tamara Young-Allen, FERC Media Relations on the accommodations for Project participants regarding the scoping period: http://www.therecorderonline.com/news/2015-03-12/Top_News/New_surveys_scoping_called_coincidence.html

^{3/} *Id.*

the draft resource reports, specifically Resource Report 10, which was filed in December 2014. The majority of the proposed alternative routes have been a matter of public record since that time. Atlantic also proposed four new alternative routes in February 2015. Notice of the initiation of the scoping process was sent to all affected landowners, including those who may be impacted by the new alternative routes. Ten scoping meetings are being conducted, including the area along the alternative routes. Accordingly, affected landowners, including those along the alternative routes, will have the same opportunity to review the route, participate in the public scoping meetings, and submit comments within the scoping period proposed in the Notice.

Moreover, DTI and Atlantic maintain a website to communicate information about the Projects- www.dom.com/corporate/what-we-do/natural-gas/atlantic-coast-pipeline. The website contains an interactive mapping feature. This mapping feature allows users to search by a specific address and includes all the proposed route alternatives. Therefore, those interested in viewing the proposed route alternatives already have the necessary information available to them.

While public participants will not be prejudiced by adherence to the scoping period proposed in the Notice, DTI and Atlantic would be harmed by the requested delay. Extending the public comment period could potentially delay Commission action in these proceedings. Any such extension would have adverse effects on DTI and Atlantic, the customers who have executed Precedent Agreements for pipeline capacity on the Projects, and the public interest.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, DTI and Atlantic respectfully urge the Commission to reject the requests for a delay of the scoping period and move forward with the schedule set forth in the Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Lois M. Henry

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DOMINION TRANSMISSION, INC.

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE, LLC

Dated: March 23, 2015

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated at Washington, D.C., this 23rd day of March, 2015.

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Document Content(s)

Response to request to extension 3 23 2015.PDF.....1-5