



ABRA Update #1 – October 6, 2014

1. Letter to George Washington National Forest

Within the last several days Dominion has applied for the right to survey the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) route that would go through the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests. The Southern Environmental Law Center in Charlottesville, an ABRA member, has prepared the attached letter to the George Washington National Forest about the impacts of the Dominion pipeline, strongly urging the Forest Service "to reject an application from Dominion to survey for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline" through the GW Forest.

Any ABRA member organization that wishes to sign on to this letter should let Greg Buppert (gbuppert@selcva.org) and Katie Storer (kstorer@selcva.org) at SELC know by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 8. Please be sure to include the name of the person representing the organization that will be "signing" the letter.

2. A law suit was filed last week by several Nelson County, VA members, including Charlotte Rea, Co-Chair of Friends of Nelson County, an ABRA member, challenging the constitutionality of the section of Virginia law that permits natural gas pipelines to survey property without an owner's permission. More details at: http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/lawsuit-challenges-state-code-allowing-gas-companies-to-survey-land/article_38594406-4b3e-11e4-85c8-001a4bcf6878.html. A copy of the complaint is attached.

3. West Virginia ABRA members and other groups are in the process of organizing to hire a full-time Outreach and Education Coordinator to educate and assist landowners and concerned citizens to respond to the proposed pipelines. The Greenbrier River Watershed Association is taking the lead. Applicants should apply to greenbrierh20@gmail.com.

4. Natural Gas Supply and Demand

Dominion in recent weeks has predicted that if the ACP is not built there will be natural gas shortages, even resorting to threatening some attendees at the company's recent open houses, saying that "if you want electricity and heat, you better be for this pipeline." When Governor McAuliffe endorsed the ACP in early September, he echoed this line of thinking. Therefore, it is interesting to read through two reports from the Natural Gas Supply Association (the industry's trade association) that present a somewhat contrasting picture. The first is a report issued last June on the sufficiency of gas supplies nationwide during the 2013-14 winter (<http://www.ngsa.org/download/issues/factsheets/20%20Questions%20Fact%20Sheet%20FINAL.pdf>). The second report, issued last week, discusses the outlook for natural gas supplies and demand this coming winter (press release: <http://www.ngsa.org/download/news/news-2014/WO%2014%20FINAL%20Winter%20Outlook%20press%20release.pdf>; full report: <http://www.ngsa.org/download/WO14%20FINAL%20EVA%20Report%20public%20version.pdf>).

5. Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition

A new organization focusing on the water quality challenges associated with the ACP will be publicly announced within the next 10 days. The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition (DPMC), an organization of citizens, conservation groups, and scientists, is being established to address water resource impacts of the proposed pipeline. One of its first tasks will be an assessment of watershed and aquatic ecological conditions in the proposed pipeline route. The DPMC become a member of ABRA. For further information, contact Rick Webb (rwebb@virginia.edu).

6. A group of citizens is organizing in Buckingham County, VA to fight the ACP, and in particular the proposed location of one of the 3 compressor stations along the pipeline route (the other two would be located at the beginning and the end of the route). The ACP route through Buckingham County would be very proximate to the Yogaville ashram (www.yogaville.org).

7. Dominion Resources announced today (10/6) an initial public offering for Dominion Midstream Partners, a limited partnership created March 11, 2014 to own its Cove Point LNG facility. More at: <http://dom.mediaroom.com/2014-10-06-Dominion-Midstream-Partners-Launches-Initial-Public-Offering>.

8. Virginia Energy Plan Briefing

The Virginia League of Conservation Voters and the Virginia Chamber of Commerce are co-hosting a special Executive Briefing on Virginia's Energy Plan on October 14 from 9 to 11 am at the Science Museum of Virginia, 2500 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA. For further information: tblankenship@valcv.org.

9. ABRA Members & Steering Committee

25 organizations are now members of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. A list of members is attached. The Steering Committee members are: Lewis Freeman (Chair), Highlanders for Responsible Development; Greg Buppert, Southern Environmental Law Center; Faye Cooper, Cooper Conservation Advisors; Charlotte Rea, Friends of Nelson County; Ernie Reed, Wild Virginia; Bruce Rinker, Valley Conservation Council; Judy Rodd, Friends of Blackwater; Nancy Sorrells, Augusta County Alliance; and Larry Thomas, Allegheny Highlands Alliance.