



ABRA Update #34 – June 25, 2015

ABRA Asks Monongahela National Forest for Comment Extension

The Monongahela National Forest (MNF) issued on June 23 an invitation for the public to comment on a request of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to conduct a “site survey and testing of a proposed alternative route.” The alternative route, one which has already received comments regarding its crossing of the George Washington National Forest, is south of the ACP’s so-called preferred route. The scoping letter from MNF Supervisor Clyde Thompson, which includes a map of the route to be surveyed, is available at http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Scoping_AlternetiveRoute.pdf. A July 6 comment deadline has been set.

A June 25 letter from ABRA Chair Lew Freeman to MNF Supervisor Thompson (posted at <http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Letter to Clyde Thompson-MNF-20150625.pdf>) requests an extension in the comment period: “The July 6 comment deadline you have set - less than two weeks - is unreasonable and impractical, particularly given that a major holiday weekend immediately precedes the announced deadline. It is in your interest to grant this request for more comment time if you wish to receive meaningful, substantive comments from the public.”

Membership in ABRA Continues To Grow

Membership in the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance has now reached 43 organizations, which doubles the size of the organization since its creation was announced 10 months ago. The most recent additions to the ABRA membership are:

- All Pain No Gain
- Appalachian Voices
- Free Nelson
- Friends of Augusta
- Highland County Cave Survey

Planning Committee Work Nears Completion

The ABRA Planning Committee, which was established to help map a future course for ABRA in the wake of recommendations at the March 7 membership meeting, has been conferring for the past several weeks. A report of recommendations is expected to be presented to the ABRA Steering Committee in early July, with a final report then going to the full ABRA membership after that. The committee is addressing three principal questions:

- 1) What should be ABRA’s future objectives and activities?
- 2) How should ABRA be organized?
- 3) How should ABRA be financed?

Committee members are: Lynn Cameron, Faye Cooper, Swami Dayananda, Beth Little, Ernie Reed and Judy Rodd. Lew Freeman is serving as convener and staff.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Businesses, Labor and Industry Groups Form Coalition Demonstrating Strong Support for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- PR Newswire – 6/25/15

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/businesses-labor-and-industry-groups-form-coalition-demonstrating-strong-support-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline-300104881.html>

Same talking points, but this is more than a paid-for survey or list of names...

Who speaks for the opposition?

- The News Virginian – 6/19/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/editorials/who-speaks-for-the-opposition/article_1b119372-163a-11e5-84de-0304a3f61107.html

It seems the general public is without proper representation in the great pipeline debate

Pipeline renews lawsuit

- Suffolk News-Herald – 6/20/15

<http://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2015/06/20/pipeline-renews-lawsuit/>

Dominion, having corrected its mistake, is again pressing for survey rights...in court

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

FERC chairman nixes extension of Mountain Valley Pipeline comment period

- Roanoke Times – 6/22/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/ferc-chairman-nixes-extension-of-pipeline-comment-period/article_32a8de20-917c-5496-a035-34e1a0c42d66.html

Elise Keaton Liegel on the Growing Opposition to The Natural Gas Pipelines in West Virginia

- Corporate Crime Reporter – 6/23/15

<http://www.corporatecrimereporter.com/news/200/elise-keaton-liegel-on-the-growing-opposition-to-the-natural-gas-pipelines-in-west-virginia/>

More groups like ABRA are out there

Big Picture:

Dinniman proposes legislation to allow taxation of natural gas pipelines

- Daily Local News – 6/20/15

<http://www.dailylocal.com/general-news/20150620/dinniman-proposes-legislation-to-allow-taxation-of-natural-gas-pipelines>

Expect midstream companies to fight for their tax-free investments

New Report: EPA's Clean Power Plan Will Not Cause a Significant Increase in Natural Gas Pipeline Needs

- PR Newswire – 6/25/15

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/new-report-epas-clean-power-plan-will-not-cause-a-significant-increase-in-natural-gas-pipeline-needs-300104704.html>

From existing AND PLANNED UPGRADES...one assumes ACP/MVP are part of that

Newly Created Coalition Unites 40 Garden State Groups in 'Green' Struggle

- NJ Spotlight – 6/12/15

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/06/21/new-environmental-coalition-unites-40-groups-in-green-struggle/>