



ABRA Update #39 – July, 30, 2015

Dominion Files Draft Plans With FERC

Dominion Transmission, Inc., on behalf of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, submitted on Monday, July 27 draft versions of several plans requested by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC request was contained in the agency's July 14 letter to Dominion providing staff comments on Resource Reports 1 through 10 that had been previously submitted by Dominion. Comment Number 1 instructed the Atlantic Coast Pipeline should:

Within 45 days of the issuance of these comments (or at least 45 days prior to filing an application), file with the Secretary of the Commission draft versions of the Karst Monitoring and Mitigation Plan; Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan; Winter Construction Plan; Invasive Plant Species Management Plan; and Blasting Plan.

The draft plans submitted by Dominion were all prepared by contractors. They do not reflect specific concerns raised by FERC in the other 219 comments from its July 14 letter. The plans read like boiler-plate language that was taken off the shelf to meet the filing deadline. Dominion has checked the boxes, but not responded substantively.

The July 27 filing by Dominion is available on the ABRA website at http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Dominion_response_to_FERC_comments_7-27-15.pdf. FERC's comments to Dominion are on the website at http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC_Comments_ACP_RR_1-10_7-14-15.pdf.

Sen. Kaine Writes FERC Asking For a Better Approval Process

Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine wrote to Federal Energy Commission Chairman Norman Bay and the four other Commission members to express several concerns over the agency's procedures in evaluating the Mountain Valley Pipeline. His July 28 letter, which is posted on the ABRA website at http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC_letter_MVP_20150728.pdf and was written about in a July 29 *Roanoke Times* article (http://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/pipeline-discussion-considers-combining-routes/article_300b53cf-5868-50f6-9600-5acb027e76ac.html), made a number of substantive points, including:

- “Energy infrastructure is necessary . . . (but) such infrastructure must be built in as minimally disruptive a way as possible.”
- He asked the agency “1.) to require project builders to make the utmost effort to minimize project impacts, and 2.) to empower the public to verify these efforts by ensuring that all relevant information is made available and that there is ample opportunity for public input and comment. Citizens rightly expect that process to be followed to the letter.”
- “One of the most frequent concerns Virginians have shared with me is the degree to which FERC analyzes individual projects within the larger regional context. The

cumulative importance of this new natural gas supply must be measured side-by-side with the cumulative impact of multiple new pipeline rights-of-way in this rural, largely agricultural and forested region.”

- The Senator also asked the agency: “How the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the MVP will consider the cumulative environmental impact from all four pipeline projects, especially given the four different project application timelines.”
- “The people whose livelihoods may be affected by a project should have ample opportunity to gather information, get their questions answered, and analyze alternatives – on a timeline conducive to participation by people for whom energy pipeline permitting is not a professional occupation. In short, simply having a public comment process is insufficient if that process is not easily accessible to the public.

While Senator’s Kaine letter to FERC is specific to the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline, it is anticipated that he will soon communicate separate comments about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

ABRA Members Urged to Distribute Policy to Other Groups

The Steering Committee has asked that ABRA members distribute our recently adopted policy on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to other organizations that might share our concerns and invite them to sign on to the position. The policy statement is available on the ABRA home page at www.abralliance.org. Anyone with questions on this, please contact lewfreeman@gmail.com.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

A Challah of Protest

- The Roanoke Star – 7/30/15

<http://theroanokestar.com/2015/07/30/a-challah-of-protest/>

Beautifully written commentary on the rights and values of those opposing the ACP and similar projects

Natural gas pipeline discussion considers combining routes

- Roanoke Times – 7/29/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/pipeline-discussion-considers-combining-routes/article_300b53cf-5868-50f6-9600-5acb027e76ac.html

...but it's highly unlikely to happen

Let’s GO Virginia: Working together for growth and opportunity

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 7/26/15

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_79a2d9f9-f041-528d-9892-3642dab0f767.html

Thomas Farrell’s pep talk about free enterprise re – less regulation and more corporate freedom

Pipelines and Property Lines

- Bacon’s Rebellion – 7/23/15

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2015/07/31264.html>

Continuing lawsuits over property rights may ultimately change state law

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Our view: The governor and the pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 7/28/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-the-governor-and-the-pipeline/article_24cf940d-b61c-59f7-a0b7-1aa7e30a9a93.html

Interesting question...Mr. Governor?

Bailey: Mountain Valley Pipeline is a sign of progress

- Roanoke Times – 7/27/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/bailey-mountain-valley-pipeline-is-a-sign-of-progress/article_572bd9c9-1639-554d-a540-75cfa6a0c1de.html

It is possible to have our cake and eat it, too...letter misses major points of pipeline opposition

Big Picture:

Plummeting natural gas prices slash revenue of Marcellus shale producers

- TribLive.com – 7/26/15

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/8748211-74/gas-prices-companies#axzz3hCpep1zx>

Nimby Nation: The High Cost To America Of Saying No To Everything

- Forbes – 7/30/15

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/christopherhelman/2015/07/30/nimby-nation-the-high-cost-to-america-of-saying-no-to-everything>

Seems like some people aren't happy about opposition to the "gas revolution". Still some good points made.