



Protecting the heritage, resources and economy of the  
Allegheny-Blue Ridge region

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**Contact:**

Lewis Freeman, Chair, Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance  
[lewfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:lewfreeman@gmail.com) or 703-298-8107

**Local Communities Strongly Oppose Atlantic Coast Pipeline as Dominion Continues to Push Proposal Forward**

**Monterey, VA--** Despite the strong opposition of local communities along the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline given threats to local economies and natural resources, today Dominion and its partners pushed the project forward by filing for approval with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Local leaders in Virginia and West Virginia are deeply concerned about the impacts of the proposed pipeline on agriculture and tourism—two top economic sectors in the region. Communities have documented the potential impacts to local businesses, private property, drinking water supplies, working farmland and forestland, and national forest land.

“The route that has been proposed in today’s filing would adversely affect the water supplies of numerous communities, threaten the headwaters of several major rivers in the Eastern United States (Potomac, Shenandoah, James and Greenbrier), create serious safety concerns because of the delicate karst topography and steep mountain terrain which the route would traverse, and compromise the integrity of National Forests and other special areas through which the pipeline would pass,” according to Lewis Freeman, Chair of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA).

“Dominion could hardly have chosen a worse route through Augusta County,” says Nancy Sorrells, former Augusta County Supervisor and current co-chair of citizens’ group Augusta County Alliance. “The pipeline would cut through the supply area for the county’s most important water supply area, protected by county ordinance. Further, it threatens the viability of family farms in one of the largest agricultural regions in the state.”

“Pipeline construction on this scale, across this type of steep, forested mountain landscape is unprecedented,” says Rick Webb of the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition. “Neither Dominion, nor Virginia’s state agencies can ensure the protection of the dozens of rivers and streams or approximately 30 miles of national forest lands that will be impacted.”

With four major interstate natural gas projects proposed to cross the region, leaders at all levels are calling on FERC to take a comprehensive, regional approach by considering changing economic conditions and the cumulative impacts of so many pipelines. “It doesn’t make any sense to analyze these

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projects in isolation,” says Greg Buppert, a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. “A region-wide approach would enable FERC to evaluate how many, if any, new pipelines are necessary through the central Appalachian region to meet demand elsewhere.”

The National Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Virginia’s United States Senator Tim Kaine have also asked FERC to consider a more comprehensive approach to proposals involving these four pipeline projects and their cumulative impacts on the region.

Specific concerns of ABRA members with the permit filing include the facts that the ACP:

- Threatens the public water supplies of Augusta County, Staunton, McDowell and Monterey as well as countless private water supplies for families, businesses, and farms.
- Devalues property along the route, threatens the viability of businesses, and holds the potential for long-term job losses.
- Raises safety concerns with the threat of landslides, floods, leaks, and explosions.
- Goes dangerously close to numerous schools and other communities limiting the ability to evacuate in the event of an emergency.
- Threatens the viability of family farms in one of the largest agricultural regions in the state.
- Threatens historic and cultural sites through blasting and an alteration of the viewshed.

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**About the Allegheny Blue-Ridge Alliance:** The Allegheny Blue-Ridge Alliance is a coalition of 43 organizations concerned about the natural gas pipeline that Dominion Resources and its partner companies have proposed to build through portions of West Virginia and Virginia.

[www.ABRalliance.org](http://www.ABRalliance.org)

**Additional Contacts:**

Rick Webb, Coordinator, Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition  
[rwebb.dpmc@gmail.com](mailto:rwebb.dpmc@gmail.com) or 540-468-2881

Nancy Sorrells, Co-Chair, Augusta County Alliance  
[lotswife@comcast.net](mailto:lotswife@comcast.net) or 540-292-4170