



ABRA Update #31 – June 3, 2015

ABRA Policy on ACP Approved

A policy position opposing the announced routes that have been proposed for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline has been approved by the Steering Committee of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. Voting representatives of ABRA members were sent the policy on June 1 and invited to have their organization's name listed on the policy. It will be sent June 9 to the press, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other key public officials. A copy of the policy is available on the ABRA website at <http://abralliance.org>.

The policy states that the various routes that have been discussed by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline “are not in the best interest of the public good of the affected communities and citizens of Virginia and West Virginia.” The statement goes on to cite reasons why a pipeline should not be constructed along the proposed routes, including:

- Threatening the integrity and safety of water supplies;
- Safety risks that would result from building a pipeline over karst topography;
- Harm to the habitat of many protected species of plants and animals in the region;
- Adverse impacts on the economies and livelihoods of affected communities;
- Compromising intended uses of public lands and National Forests; and
- Endangering the structural character of mountain terrain due to long-term erosion.

The statement also calls for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to “conduct a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that assesses the full range of adverse effects of the pipeline and evaluates all reasonable, less damaging alternatives. The PEIS should examine the need for and impacts of the pipeline in the context of the numerous natural gas infrastructure projects proposed for the region and the rapidly increasing competitiveness of clean, renewable sources of energy.”

Members of ABRFA that wish to be listed as supporting the policy must indicate so by contacting ABRA Chair Lew Freeman at lewfreeman@gmail.com.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Floodplain questions raised over pipeline

- The News Virginian – 6/3/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/local/floodplain-questions-raised-over-pipeline/article_26620642-08d6-11e5-8472-373385350467.html

Nelson County may require permit from ACP to avoid losing Federal Flood Insurance eligibility for residents

Friends of Nelson joins grassroots coalition protesting FERC over proposed pipeline

- Augusta Free Press – 5/28/15

<http://augustafreepress.com/friends-of-nelson-joins-grassroots-coalition-protesting-ferc-over-proposed-pipeline/>

Our view: What the regulators want to hear

- Roanoke Times – 6/2/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-what-the-regulators-want-to-hear/article_11505097-32d0-5b47-8057-75cb3b55007c.html

Funny you should ask...!

Dominion needs to rethink pipeline plan

- The News Virginian – 6/2/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest_columnists/dominion-needs-to-rethink-pipeline-plan/article_b24dd976-08d4-11e5-80bf-cf3285684eca.html

Letter to the editor responding to Leslie Hartz's article – "More adjustments coming for pipeline route"

ACP will be built safely and become unnoticed

- News Leader – 5/31/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/readers/2015/05/31/acp-will-built-safely-become-unnoticed/28257169/>

Note the author. And now it's over 17,000 jobs! Wow, the touted benefits just keep getting better!

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Pipeline contractors face trespassing charges in Craig County

- Roanoke Times – 5/28/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/pipeline-contractors-face-trespassing-charges-in-craig-county/article_891a351b-553c-58c1-816f-12747259ba4f.html

Contractors say they were unaware of posted signs forbidding pipeline surveys, though they drove past several as they crossed private property to access the JNF.

Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce endorses controversial pipeline project

- Roanoke Times – 6/1/15

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/roanoke-chamber-endorses-controversial-pipeline-project/article_e503f4e5-46a3-53e2-8d1c-cd4dd2dd2c78.html

Chamber's support causes concern and confusion

Waugh: The pipeline offers economic opportunities

- Roanoke Times – 6/2/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/waugh-the-pipeline-offers-economic-opportunities/article_c14bbc5c-6bf4-5e71-98e3-a5174ace0b42.html

Roanoke Chamber of Commerce president offers his reasons for supporting MVP

Christopoulos: Mountain Valley Pipeline is risky business

- Roanoke Times – 6/3/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/christopoulos-mountain-valley-pipeline-is-risky-business/article_7f3aaceb-00a5-52e8-9986-e9029ca61a20.html

MVP threatens development direction and potential of Roanoke region

Big Picture:

The fossil-fuel industry's campaign to mislead the American people

- The Washington Post (opinions) – 5/29/15

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-fossil-fuel-industrys-campaign-to-mislead-the-american-people/2015/05/29/04a2c448-0574-11e5-8bda-c7b4e9a8f7ac_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines&wpmm=1

Never doubted this for a second. DO doubt that there will be a multi-billion \$ settlement!

On heels of Palmetto Pipeline plans, eminent domain law unclear

- Aiken Standard – 5/29/15

<http://www.aikenstandard.com/article/20150529/AIK0101/150529432>

More questions about eminent domain surface in the Southeast

Is natural gas really a bridge to a greener future?

- RTCC.com – 6/1/15

<http://www.rtcc.org/2015/06/01/is-natural-gas-really-a-bridge-to-a-greener-future/>

Good question

Bill seeks to block tariffs for LNG exports

- 22News – WWLP.com – 6/2/15

<http://wwlp.com/2015/06/02/bill-seeks-to-block-tariffs-for-lng-exports/>

Finally some common sense and decent representation. Let's hope it works!

DOE chief says US should spend \$270bn on natural gas pipelines

- ICIS News – 6/2/15

<http://www.icis.com/resources/news/2015/06/02/9891567/doe-chief-says-us-should-spend-270bn-on-natural-gas-pipelines/>

Yes, our energy infrastructure needs updating...but carefully. And with a view to the future, not the past!