



ABRA Update #42 – August 19, 2015

ACP's Wrist Slapped by the Feds . . . Again

The Bureau of Land Management notified the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on August 17 that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline has so far failed to provide sufficient information and a required Plan of Development for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, as required by law. The BLM letter to FERC said:

“At this phase in the FERC schedule for the project, ACP has not provided the Federal agencies with enough detailed information in the application and the resource reports to adequately review issues, concerns, or environmental barriers to the use of Federal land.”

“Additional survey data must be completed, particularly in the area of geology and soils, and this information must be provided within a timeframe that is reasonable to allow for adequate Federal agency review before an EIS is initiated. The importance of timely information is critical in the streamlined NEPA pre-filing process. The BLM requests that FERC review the project schedule to allocate sufficient time for ACP to complete surveys on Federal lands and to provide the Federal agencies with information required.”

The BLM letter is available at [http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/BLM letter to FERC 8-17-15.pdf](http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/BLM_letter_to_FERC_8-17-15.pdf).

ABRA Membership Meeting Set for October 24

An ABRA-wide meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, October 24 at a Staunton, VA area location. The half-day session will discuss future strategies that should be pursued in confronting the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Because of ABRA's 50% growth in membership in the past 5 months, attendance will be limited, but every member organization will be able to participate. Further details will be forthcoming after Labor Day.

ABRA Reps Meet With Senator Warner

A delegation of organizations and citizens opposing the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline routes, including representatives of several ABRA member, met August 18 with Senator Mark Warner in Charlottesville to discuss their concerns. The hour-long session provided each attendee the opportunity to voice their views and provide the Senator and his staff with written materials. Senator Warner, who has not taken a position on the ACP, expressed appreciativeness for the presentations and invited further dialogue on the issue.

Shenandoah Mountain Featured in Pew Trusts Newsletter

Pew Charitable Trusts has profiled Shenandoah Mountain in its online newsletter, pointing out that the mountain spans “some 90,000 acres in the George Washington National Forest, includes one of the largest remaining roadless areas in the southern Appalachian Mountains.”

Shenandoah Mountain is in the direct path of all of the proposed routes of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Last November the U.S. Forest Service recognized Shenandoah Mountain as a national scenic area (NSA) with wilderness in the official forest plan for the George Washington National Forest. The decision was the result of a years-long effort by citizens groups, led by ABRA member Friends of Shenandoah Mountain. The article is available at <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/about/news-room/news/2015/08/04/remote-getaway-overlooks-shenandoah-valley>.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline opponents assemble at Afton

- The News Virginian – 8/19/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/pipeline-opponents-assemble-at-afton/article_e2c9822e-460c-11e5-8ecd-03fe506381c9.html

Hands Across Our Land steps up in 35 communities across the country

Pipeline company defends project with statewide ad campaign

- WDBJ7.com – 8/18/15

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/local/pipeline-company-defends-project-with-statewide-ad-campaign/34792472>

Related: <http://wavy.com/2015/08/18/dominion-energy-launches-commercials-to-build-pipeline-support/>

Pipeline case in West Virginia kindles hope in local opposition

- Nelson County Times – 8/12/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/pipeline/pipeline-case-in-west-virginia-kindles-hope-in-local-opposition/article_604c73b8-4131-11e5-9774-0b7d19e5d901.html

Regulators Asked to Thin Out Duplicate Gas Pipelines

- Public News Service – 8/13/15

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2015-08-13/energy-policy/regulators-asked-to-thin-out-duplicate-gas-pipelines/a47479-1>

Opposition petitioning FERC for overall EIS to avoid duplicate pipelines

May be coming soon: Dominion’s last refund for a while

- News Leader – 8/15/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/08/15/may-coming-soon-dominions-last-refund/31794223/>

Don’t spend it all in one place

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Quesenberry: Pipeline affects property values and mortgages

- Roanoke Times – 8/13/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/quesenberry-pipeline-affects-property-values-and-mortgages/article_14d60d6b-e321-5b86-b06b-0a028ccbdfef1.html

Various studies refute the idea that pipelines have no effect on property values

Confusion over land access continues as pipeline surveyors charged with trespassing

- Roanoke Times – 8/13/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/confusion-over-land-access-continues-as-pipeline-surveyors-charged-with/article_05a9845d-ee20-59c9-b769-e55a969e4afc.html

MVP's statements and VA law are somewhat at odds...clarification is necessary...for both parties

Pipeline archaeological surveys underway in Pittsylvania County

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 8/14/15

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_3fa68310-8a34-5dc7-997f-05fa658a2b8b.html

Big Picture:

What It Takes To Win Against New Gas Pipelines: Lessons from New York, Georgia and Kentucky

- Huffington Post – 8/17/15

[http://abralliance.org/beta/wordpress/wp-](http://abralliance.org/beta/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/What_It_Takes_To_Win_Against_New_Gas_Pipelines_Craig-Altomose.pdf)

[content/uploads/2015/08/What It Takes To Win Against New Gas Pipelines Craig-Altomose.pdf](http://abralliance.org/beta/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/What_It_Takes_To_Win_Against_New_Gas_Pipelines_Craig-Altomose.pdf)

Dedicated grassroots organizing and persistent advocacy can stop new pipelines

Environmental group: Virginia Carbon goals within reach

- Daily Press – 8/19/15

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/science/dp-nws-clean-power-plan-hampton-roads-20150818-story.html>

“Business As Usual” gets us to the goal...so why are people complaining?

More gas pipelines may not be the energy answer

- Boston Globe – 8/17/15

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2015/08/16/more-gas-pipelines-may-not-energy-answer/p3lno6u1wtRgWWbMH5NyrO/story.html>

Needed: an understanding of the Northeast's true energy needs for the future

Methane Leaks in Natural-Gas Supply Chain Far Exceed Estimates, Study Says

- New York Times – 8/18/15

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/19/science/methane-leaks-in-natural-gas-supply-chain-far-exceed-estimates-study-says.html>

EPA Cracks Down On Oil And Gas Methane Releases

- Law360 – 8/18/15

http://www.law360.com/energy/articles/692197?nl_pk=be8aa650-c2ea-4be9-8371-47b272dfe5fa&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=energy

New rules cover existing practices and equipment...are more about enforcement than new standards