

Dominion Transmission, Inc.
701 East Cary Street, Richmond, VA 23219



February 16, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC & Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Atlantic Coast Pipeline & Supply Header Projects
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 & CP15-555-000
OEP/DG2E/Gas 4
§375.308(x)**

Dear Secretary Bose:

On September 18, 2015, Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) and Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) filed abbreviated applications (Applications), under the above referenced dockets, for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Projects (Projects) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, as amended, and Part 157 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC" or the "Commission").

Atlantic and DTI received a Data Request from Commission staff regarding these Projects dated December 4, 2015 (12-4-15 Data Request). In response to the 12-4-15 Data Request, DTI, on behalf of Atlantic and itself, submitted responses to subsets of the questions on January 13, 2016 (Accession No. 20160113-5231 and No. 20160113-5232) and on January 29, 2016 (Accession No. 20160129-5227).

It was noted in the cover letter to the January 13, 2016 responses that Atlantic is working with the U.S. Forest Service to evaluate the Atlantic Coast Pipeline route across the National Forests, and that this information would be included in the forthcoming relevant Data Request responses. Related to that, and in response to the 12-4-15 Data Request, DTI, on behalf of Atlantic and itself, hereby submits responses to Questions 64 and 154. The route segment contained in this filing optimizes the MNF 5 alternative route and develops a portion of the conceptual southern route alternative as requested. Atlantic believes that the route segment, referred to as GWNF 6, addresses the issues identified by the U.S. Forest Service and allows the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement to continue. DTI will submit updated resource impact information, including tables, alignment sheets, and other relevant project information for this alternative in a future filing.

If you have any questions, please contact Angela Woolard at 866-319-3382.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Matthew R. Bley*

Matthew R. Bley
Director, Gas Transmission Certificates

cc: Mr. Kevin Bowman, FERC
Service List

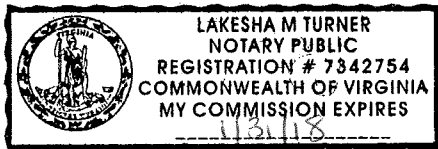
STATE OF VIRGINIA)
) SS:
CITY OF RICHMOND)

Matthew R. Bley, being first duly sworn on his oath deposed and says: that he is Director, Gas Transmission Certificates, Authorized Representative of Dominion Transmission, Inc.; that he has read the foregoing submittal and is familiar with the contents thereof; that all the statements and matters contained therein are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge, and belief; and that he is authorized to execute and file the same with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.



Matthew R. Bley
Director, Gas Transmission Certificates
Authorized Representative of Dominion
Dominion Transmission, Inc.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of February, 2016



Notary Public
In and For said City

My Commission Expires: 1/31/18



**ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE, LLC
ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE
Docket No. CP15-554-000**

and



**DOMINION TRANSMISSION, INC.
SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT
Docket No. CP15-555-000**

**Response to Data Request
Dated December 4, 2015**

Prepared by



an ERM Group company

February 2016

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 & CP15-555-000
Response to Data Request
Dated December 4, 2015

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Q154 Attachment 1 Landowner List for GWNF 6 (Contains Privileged Information – Filed
Under Separate Cover)

RESOURCE REPORT 3 - FISH, WILDLIFE, AND VEGETATION

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 & CP15-555-000
Response to Data Request
Dated December 4, 2015

Category: Resource Report 3 – Fish, Wildlife, and Vegetation

Question Number: 64 **Question Subpart:** N/A

Question:

Provide updated information regarding any reroutes that Atlantic adopts to avoid USFS species occupied and/or suitable habitat (e.g., Cheat Mountain Salamander, Cow Knob Salamander, West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel), including correspondence documenting USFS review and comments on these reroutes.

Response:

As discussed in the response to Question Number 154, Atlantic has identified and proposes to adopt an alternative route (GWNF 6) for the proposed AP-1 mainline which avoids occupied and/or suitable habitat for Cheat Mountain Salamander, West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel, and Cow Knob Salamander in the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) and George Washington National Forest (GWNF). Atlantic has and will continue to consult with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) regarding the alternative route and the potential for impacts on these and other sensitive species and resources in the MNF and GWNF. Based on initial feedback from USFS staff in teleconferences on January 22 and February 4, 2016, the alternative route appears to address USFS concerns regarding Cheat Mountain Salamander, Cow Knob Salamander, and West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel.

Additional consultation with USFS staff and other Federal and State/Commonwealth resource agencies, as well as environmental field surveys, are necessary to characterize existing conditions along the alternative route and assess potential impacts to sensitive resources. Atlantic anticipates that the environmental field surveys will be completed in Spring 2016 (subject to required survey approvals from Federal and State/Commonwealth land managing agencies and survey permission from private landowners). Atlantic anticipates filing additional information on the alternative route, based on consultations with the USFS and other agencies and the results of field surveys and studies, in the second quarter of 2016.

Response Provided By:

Robert Bisha
Project Director – Environmental Services
804-273-3010

RESOURCE REPORT 10 – ALTERNATIVES

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 & CP15-555-000
Response to Data Request
Dated December 4, 2015

Category: Resource Report 10 – Alternatives

Question Number: 154 **Question Subpart:** N/A

Question:

Evaluate and optimize a pipeline route that utilizes MNF 5 and the conceptual southern route alternative that would avoid the Cheat and Back Alleghany Mountains, Shenandoah Mountain, designated and potential Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, recommended wilderness study areas, and other sensitive public or resource areas within the MNF and GWNF, and optimizes the use of existing utility right-of-way to the extent practicable. Ensure that the comparative analysis utilizes current and defensible criteria and data to evaluate resource impacts. Criteria to analyze should include resources that are managed under each National Forest's LRMP. **Please note that we will not be able to consider construction and operation of any proposed action or alternative unless it complies with the National Forest's LRMP or Atlantic has documented that the USFS would amend a respective LRMP for activities deemed inconsistent with the LRMP.**

Response:

Atlantic has identified and proposes to adopt an alternative route for the proposed AP-1 mainline that avoids Cheat Mountain, Back Alleghany Mountain, Shenandoah Mountain, and other sensitive public and resource areas within the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) and George Washington National Forest (GWNF). The alternative route, referred to as GWNF 6, additionally addresses issues identified by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in a letter to Atlantic dated January 19, 2016 with regard to Cheat Mountain Salamander (CMS), West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel (WVNFS), and Cow Knob Salamander (CKS) (FERC Accession Number 20160121-5029). While Atlantic believes that its filed route is consistent with the applicable Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) for the MNF and GWNF, the alternative route avoids occupied or suitable habitat for the CMS and WVNFS in the MNF and for the CKS in the GWNF.

Route Description:

The GWNF 6 route optimizes the MNF 5 alternative route and develops a portion of the conceptual southern alternative route initially discussed in Section 10.8.1.2 of Resource Report 10, which was filed with the FERC Application on September 18, 2015 (FERC Accession Number 20150918-5212). Additional discussion and analysis of the MNF 5 alternative route was provided in a Supplemental Filing which posted to the FERC Docket for the ACP on December 17, 2015 (FERC Accession Number 20151217-5026).

Starting approximately at Milepost (MP) 47.5 of the filed AP-1 mainline route in Randolph County, West Virginia, the GWNF 6 route initially heads south approximately 13 miles, passing east of Hicks Ridge and west of Kumbrabow State Forest. The route then continues south/southeast approximately 13 miles, crossing Point Mountain and passing east of Elk

Mountain and Mingo Knob. The route enters Pocahontas County, West Virginia southeast of Mingo Knob at Valley Mountain, and then continues south approximately 8 miles, crossing Mace, Tallow, and Gibson Knobs and passing west of the Snowshoe Ski Resort. South of Gibson Knob, the route heads southeast approximately 17 miles, passing south of Cheat Mountain and Back Allegheny Mountain; crossing Cloverlick Mountain, Seneca State Forest, and Michael Mountain; and entering Highland County, Virginia just west of Big Crooked Ridge.

After entering Virginia, the GWNF 6 route heads east approximately 3 miles then southeast approximately 8 miles, crossing Little Ridge, Big Ridge, and Little Mountain and passing east of Piney Ridge. The route enters Bath County, Virginia near where it crosses U.S. Highway 220, and then continues southeast approximately 14 miles, crossing Back Creek Mountain, Jack Mountain, and Tower Hill Mountain and passing south of Shenandoah Mountain at South Sister Knob. The route then heads northeast approximately 20 miles, passing north of Chestnut Ridge; entering Augusta County, Virginia near Brushy Ridge; and crossing Deerfield Valley on the east side of Shenandoah Mountain. The GWNF 6 route intersects Atlantic's filed route approximately at the filed route's MP 115.2 at Broad Draft near West Augusta, Virginia.

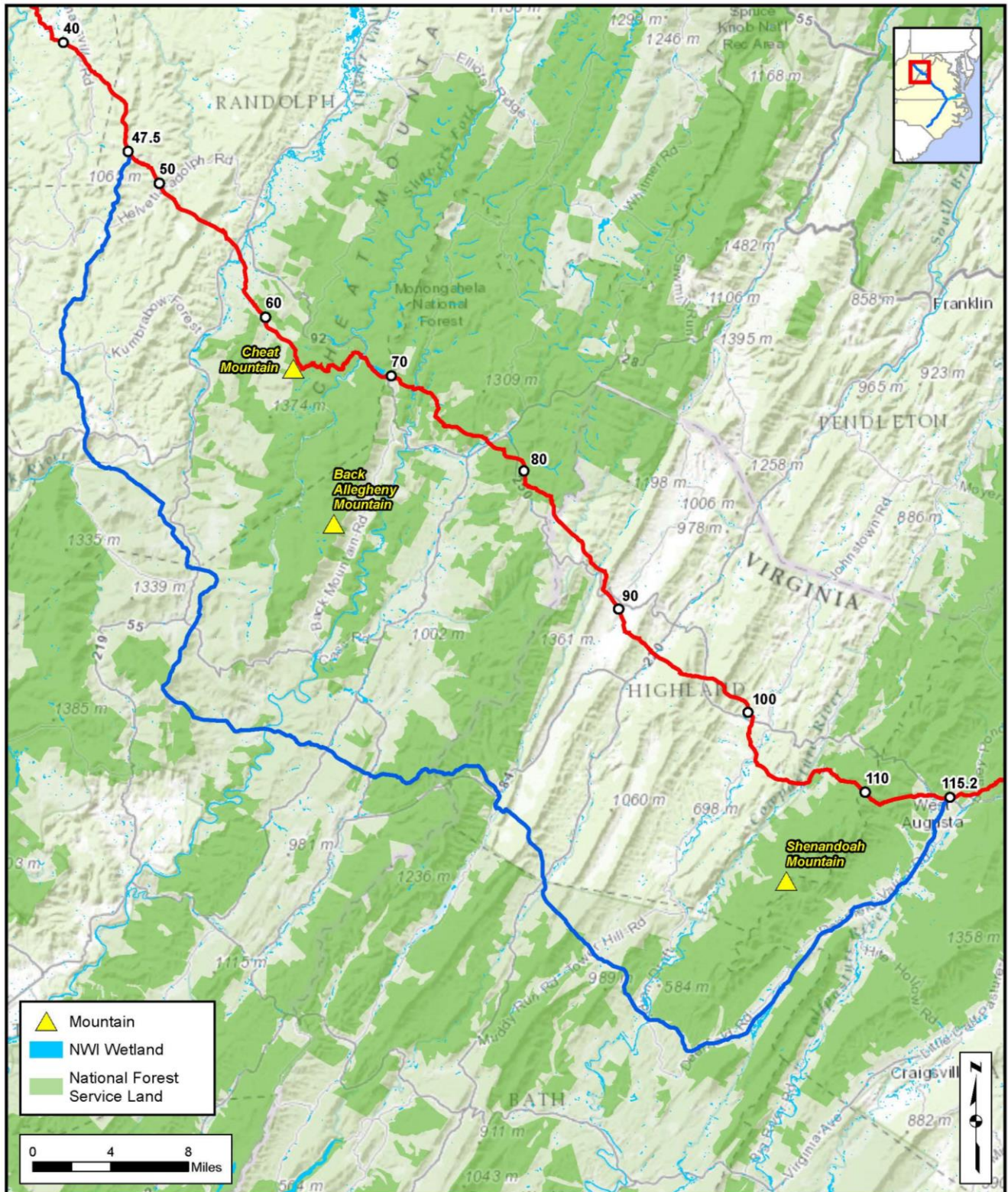
Figure 154-1 depicts the GWNF 6 route relative to Atlantic's filed route. Environmental characteristics along the GWNF 6 route are summarized in Table 154-1. Environmental characteristics for crossings of the MNF and GWNF along the GWNF 6 route are summarized in Tables 154-2 and 154-3, respectively.

Route Characteristics from Desktop Data Sources:

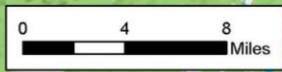
The GWNF 6 route is approximately 95.7 miles long. Approximately 3.9 miles of the route are adjacent to existing utility rights-of-way, roads, or trails or within previously disturbed strip mine areas. The route crosses 21 primary highways, including U.S. Highways 219 and 220, and 63 secondary highways or local roads. The route crosses 12.1 miles of Federal lands managed by the USFS, including 5.4 miles in the MNF and 6.7 miles in the GWNF; 4.6 miles of State lands in West Virginia in the Seneca State Forest; and 79.0 miles of private lands. The route crosses 256 parcels of land (including public lands), of which nine parcels (approximately 6.7 miles) are encumbered by open space conservation easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

With regard to land use and cover types, the GWNF 6 route mostly crosses forested lands (75 miles) and agricultural lands (18.3 miles). The route avoids population centers – it passes near or crosses rural residential areas in the vicinities of Mace and Clover Lick, West Virginia and Deerfield, Virginia. There are only four houses within 125 feet including one house within 50 feet of the route.

The National Hydrography Dataset and National Wetland Inventory were queried to characterize crossings of surface waters along the GWNF 6 route. The route crosses 43 perennial waterbodies, including the Greenbrier, Jackson, Cowpasture, and Calfpasture Rivers, and 69 intermittent waterbodies. Three of the waterbodies, Greenbrier River, Back Creek, and Cowpasture River, are listed in the National Rivers Inventory, and two, Cowpasture River and Calfpasture River (which is crossed twice), are considered qualified or potential scenic rivers in Virginia. The route crosses approximately 0.5 mile of wetland areas, consisting of 0.4 mile of emergent wetland, 0.1 mile of forested wetland, and less than 0.1 mile of shrub wetland.



- ▲ Mountain
- NWI Wetland
- National Forest Service Land



— Filed Route
— GWNF 6 Route

Atlantic Coast Pipeline
Figure 154-1
GWNF 6 Route



TABLE 154-1

Environmental and Other Characteristics along the GWNF 6 Route

Feature	Unit	GWNF 6 Route
Length of route (total)	miles	95.7
West Virginia (total)	miles	52.1
Randolph County	miles	26.8
Pocahontas County	miles	25.3
Virginia (total)	miles	43.6
Highland County	miles	10.6
Bath County	miles	21.4
Augusta County	miles	11.6
Adjacent to/within existing linear corridor facilities (total)	miles	3.9
Electric transmission line	miles	0.6
Roads/trails	miles	1.9
Strip mined areas	miles	1.4
Primary U.S. or State/Commonwealth highway crossed	number	21
Other State/Commonwealth or local roads crossed	number	63
Federal lands crossed (total)	miles	12.1
U.S. Forest Service (total)	miles	12.1
Monongahela National Forest	miles	5.4
George Washington National Forest	miles	6.7
State/Commonwealth lands crossed (total)	miles	4.6
West Virginia (total)	miles	4.6
Seneca State Forest	miles	4.6
Virginia (total)	miles	0.0
Private lands crossed	miles	79.0
Property parcels crossed	number	256
Conservation easements crossed	miles	6.7
Residences within 125 feet of pipeline centerline	number	3
Residences within 50 feet of pipeline centerline	number	1
Land use/cover types crossed		
Forested	miles	75.0
Agricultural	miles	18.3
Wetlands crossed (total)	miles	0.5
Forested	miles	0.1
Shrub	miles	<0.1
Emergent	miles	0.4
Waterbodies crossed (total)	number	112
Intermittent	number	69
Perennial	number	43
National Rivers Inventory listed rivers crossed	number	3
Virginia scenic rivers – designated scenic rivers crossed	number	0
Virginia scenic rivers – qualified or potential scenic rivers crossed	number	3 ^a
Battlefields crossed		
Cheat Mountain Battlefield	miles	0.2
McDowell Battlefield	miles	0.8
Recreational trails crossed	number	21
U.S. Geological Survey Soil Survey soils crossed		
Hard shallow bedrock crossed ^b	miles	39.8
Soft shallow bedrock crossed ^c	miles	22.1
Highly erodible by water ^d	miles	74.5
Highly erodible by wind ^e	miles	0.0
Revegetation concerns ^f	miles	76.4
Length of steep slope crossed (greater than 30 percent)	miles	24.3
Length of side slope crossed (greater than 30 percent)	miles	8.6

TABLE 154-1

Environmental and Other Characteristics along the GWNF 6 Route

Feature	Unit	GWNF 6 Route
U.S. Geological Survey high landslide incidence areas crossed	miles	55.5
U.S. Geological Survey karst topography crossed	miles	26.8
The Nature Conservancy critical habitat		
Forest core priority interior habitat crossed	miles	2.4
Natural cover within active river areas crossed	miles	0.2
Natural communities within resilient areas crossed	miles	8.4
^a	Includes 1 crossing of the Cowpasture River and 2 crossings for the Calfpasture River.	
^a	Includes soils that have bedrock within 60 inches of the soil surface. Hard bedrock refers to lithic bedrock that may require blasting or other special construction techniques during installation of the proposed pipeline segments.	
^b	Includes soils that have bedrock within 60 inches of the soil surface. Soft bedrock refers to paralithic bedrock that will not likely require blasting during construction	
^c	Includes land in capability subclasses 4E through 8E and soils with an average slope greater than or equal to 9 percent.	
^d	Includes soils with Wind Erodibility Group classification of one or two.	
^e	Includes coarse-textured soils (sandy loams and coarser) that are moderately well to excessively drained and soils with an average slope greater than or equal to 9 percent.	

TABLE 154-2

Environmental and Other Characteristics along the GWNF 6 Route in the Monongahela National Forest ^a

Feature	Unit	GWNF 6 Route
Length (total)	miles	5.4
Management prescription units crossed		
Vegetation diversity	miles	1.1
Wildlife habitat emphasis	miles	4.3
Length of Cheat Mountain/Back Allegheny Mountain crossed	miles	0.0
Wilderness Areas crossed	miles	0.0
National Recreation Areas crossed	miles	0.0
Botanical areas crossed	miles	0.0
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum areas crossed		
Semi-primitive motorized	miles	2.4
Roaded natural	miles	3.0
Sensitive habitats crossed		
Virginia big-eared bat habitat	miles	0.0
Indiana bat hibernacula 5 mile buffer area	miles	0.0
West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel suitable habitat	miles	0.0
Cheat Mountain salamander habitat	miles	0.0
Red spruce forest percent cover areas crossed		
Greater than 50 percent cover	miles	0.4
10 to 50 percent cover	miles	0.6
10 percent cover	miles	2.8
Scenic Management System Existing Scenic Integrity areas crossed		
High	miles	0.0
Medium	miles	5.4
Potential wild and scenic rivers crossed	number	0
Restoration areas crossed (e.g., Lambert Restoration Area)	miles	0.0
Developed recreational sites within 0.25 mile of centerline	number	0
Planned timber harvest areas crossed	miles	0.3
Crossings of Forest roads	number	6
Crossings of Forest trails	number	6
^a	Feature crossings on USFS lands within the MNF based on digital data provided by the USFS.	

TABLE 154-3

Environmental and Other Characteristics along the GWNF 6 Route in the George Washington National Forest		
Length (total)	miles	6.7
Management prescription units crossed		
Mosaics of wildlife habitat	miles	6.7
Length of Shenandoah Mountain crossed	miles	0.0
Wilderness Areas crossed	miles	0.0
Potential wilderness areas crossed	miles	0.0
National Recreation Areas crossed	miles	0.0
Roadless Areas crossed	miles	0.0
Special Biological Areas crossed	miles	0.0
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum areas crossed		
Semi-primitive motorized	miles	1.8
Roaded natural	miles	4.9
Sensitive habitats crossed		
Cow Knob Salamander habitat ^b	miles	0.0
Scenic Integrity Areas crossed		
Very high	miles	0.0
High	miles	0.0
Medium	miles	6.7
Developed recreation sites within 0.25 mile of centerline	number	0
Crossings of Forest roads	number	4
Crossings of Forest trails	number	1
^a	Feature crossings on USFS lands within the GWNF based on digital data provided by the USFS.	
^b	Assumed, based on avoidance of Shenandoah Mountain.	

The GWNF 6 route crosses approximately 1.0 mile of Civil War battlefield areas, including 0.2 mile within the Cheat Mountain Battlefield in Pocahontas County, West Virginia and 0.8 mile within the McDowell Battlefield in Augusta County, Virginia. Research to identify previously recorded archaeological and historic sites along the GWNF 6 route is ongoing. Based on readily available data, archaeological and historic sites are present in Deerfield Valley and could be present in other places along the route.

The U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) Soil Survey Geographic Database was queried to assess soil conditions along the GWNF 6 route. Based on these data, the route crosses 39.8 miles of soils with near surface hard bedrock, 22.1 miles of soils with near surface soft bedrock, 74.5 miles of soils that are highly erodible by water, and 76.4 miles of soils with revegetation concerns. The soils data reflect the terrain conditions along much of the route, which is mountainous. Approximately 24.3 miles of the route crosses slopes greater than 30 percent and approximately 8.6 miles of the route crosses side slopes greater than 30 percent. A total of approximately 55.5 miles of the route crosses areas characterized by the USGS as having high incidence for landslides.

Data from the USGS indicates that the GWNF 6 route crosses 26.8 miles of karst topography. These crossings occur primarily in the vicinities of Elk, Middle, and Cloverlick Mountains in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, West Virginia; Michael Mountain in Pocahontas County, West Virginia; Little and Back Creek Mountains in Highland County, Virginia; Tower Hill Mountain in Bath County, Virginia; Chestnut Ridge in Bath County, Virginia; and Walker

Mountain in Bath and Augusta Counties, Virginia. Research to identify known caves and other surface karst features along the GWNF 6 route is ongoing.

Monongahela National Forest

The GWNF 6 route crosses approximately 5.4 miles of USFS lands in the MNF, including 1.1 mile in the Vegetation Diversity Management Prescription (MP) and 4.3 miles in the Wildlife Habitat Emphasis MP. The route avoids crossing Cheat Mountain and Back Allegheny Mountain, which contain occupied and/or suitable habitat for CMS and WVNFS. The route additionally avoids other sensitive areas in the MNF including Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, developed recreation sites, botanical areas, potential wild and scenic rivers, areas with high scenic integrity, and forest and watershed restoration areas.

George Washington National Forest

The GWNF 6 route crosses approximately 6.7 miles of USFS lands in the GWNF, all within the Mosaics of Wildlife Habitat MP. The route avoids crossing Shenandoah Mountain, which contains occupied and potential habitat for CKS. The route additionally avoids other sensitive areas within the GWNF including Wilderness Areas, potential wilderness areas, designated roadless areas, developed recreation sites, special biological areas, and high and very high scenic integrity areas.

FERC Routing Criteria:

Atlantic's new GWNF 6 route addresses each of the routing criteria identified by FERC staff in this Data Request Question. As noted above, GWNF 6 optimizes the MNF 5 alternative route and develops a portion of the conceptual southern alternative route initially discussed in Section 10.8.1.2 of Resource Report 10. Additionally, GWNF 6 avoids Cheat Mountain, Back Allegheny Mountain, Shenandoah Mountain, designated and potential Wilderness Areas, National Recreation Areas, recommended wilderness study areas, and other sensitive public or resource areas within the MNF and GWNF.

While Atlantic assessed options for routing GWNF 6 adjacent to existing utility rights-of-way, limited opportunities for collocation were identified. There are no existing pipeline corridors and few existing electric transmission lines in the general vicinity of the GWNF 6 route that pass south of Cheat Mountain and Shenandoah Mountain. Additionally, the existing transmission lines in the vicinity of GWNF 6 generally cross terrain that is unsuitable for pipeline construction due to factors such as side slope or the orientation of landforms. Whereas electric transmission lines can be sited to span steep or difficult topographic features, such as side slope, pipelines in mountainous areas are typically sited to cross ridges and hills perpendicular to (i.e., along the natural fall of) the slope. Despite these limitations, approximately 0.6 mile of the route is adjacent to existing electric transmission lines. An additional 1.9 and 1.4 miles, respectively, are adjacent to roads or trails, or within previously strip mined areas.

USFS Routing Criteria:

The January 19, 2016 letter from the USFS states that Atlantic's filed route is inconsistent with "Forest Plan directions and other directives" specific to CMS, WVNFS, CKS, and associated

habitats in the MNF and GWNF. Atlantic's resolution of USFS concerns with the GWNF 6 route is described by species below.

- **Cheat Mountain Salamander:** The January 19, 2016 letter states that Atlantic's filed route is inconsistent with the LRMP for the MNF, which identifies protective standards and guidelines for CMS and its habitat. These standards and guidelines prohibit activities that disturb the ground or vegetation within occupied habitat and a buffer area, unless an analysis shows that the activities would not adversely effect populations of the species or its habitat. The GWNF 6 route resolves any inconsistencies by avoiding areas in the MNF, primarily Cheat and Back Allegheny Mountains, that contain occupied habitat for the species. With the adoption of GWNF 6, no impacts on CMS and its habitat within the MNF are anticipated due to construction and operation of the ACP.
- **West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel:** The January 19, 2016 letter states that Atlantic's filed route is inconsistent with the LRMP for the MNF, which identifies protective standards and guidelines for WVNFS and its habitat, including red spruce and red spruce-northern hardwood ecosystems. The USFS has advised Atlantic that these standards and guidelines prohibit vegetation management activities, including clearing, within occupied or suitable habitat, unless a project level assessment results in a no adverse effect determination. The GWNF 6 route resolves any inconsistencies by avoiding areas in the MNF, primarily Cheat and Back Allegheny Mountains, that contain suitable habitat for the species. With the adoption of GWNF 6, no impacts on WVNFS and its habitat within the MNF are anticipated due to construction and operation of the ACP.
- **Cow Knob Salamander:** The January 19, 2016 letter states that Atlantic's filed route is inconsistent with two management measures in a 1994 Conservation Agreement (CA) between the USFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for protection of CKS in the GWNF. The CA identifies "measures to be carried out by the Forest Service to stabilize or enhance populations and avoid actions which may cause CKS to become threatened or endangered." CA Management Measure 2, *Protection from Take*, prohibits the take and killing of CKS, and CA Management Measure 14, *Utility and Transportation Corridors*, prohibits new utility corridors within Shenandoah Mountain Crest – Special Interest Areas, which contain CKS, unless there is an overriding demonstrated public need or benefit. The GWNF 6 route resolves any inconsistencies with the CA by avoiding Shenandoah Mountain, where occupied and suitable habitat for CKS is found. With the adoption of GWNF 6, no impacts on CKS and its habitat within the GWNF are anticipated due to construction and operation of the ACP.

As noted in the response to Question 64, Atlantic met with USFS staff by teleconference on January 22 and February 4, 2016 to receive initial feedback on GWNF 6. Based on the initial feedback, Atlantic understands that the GWNF 6 route addresses USFS concerns regarding impacts on CMS, WVNFS, and CKS. No new substantive issues with the GWNF 6 route were identified through this consultation.

Conclusions:

Atlantic proposes to adopt GWNF 6 as part of the route for the AP-1 mainline. Atlantic will continue to consult with the USFS and other Federal and State/Commonwealth agencies and will conduct environmental studies to characterize existing conditions, assess the potential for impacts on sensitive resources, and identify measures for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts along GWNF 6. Field surveys and studies to be completed along the route will include wetland and waterbody delineation surveys, threatened and endangered species surveys, archaeological and historic site surveys, a karst assessment and survey, an Order 1 soil survey within the MNF and GWNF, a geohazards assessment, and a visual impacts assessment for the MNF and GWNF. Atlantic anticipates that the field surveys and studies will be completed in Spring 2016 (subject to required survey approvals from Federal and State/Commonwealth land managing agencies and survey permission from private landowners). Atlantic anticipates filing additional information on the route, based on consultations with the USFS and other agencies and the results of field surveys and studies, in the second quarter of 2016.

Response Provided By:

Robert Bisha
Project Director – Environmental Services
804-273-3010

Document Content(s)

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