

May 20, 2016

To: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Re: ACP GWNF-6 alternative route

My name is Lora Baum and my husband and I own 31 acres in Little Valley, outside Bolar, Virginia. The route of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline GWNF-6 alternative route that is now being considered traverses our property after it crosses Little Valley Road.

Northern Bath County, where our property is situated, is an exceedingly rural, beautiful and untainted area. Little Valley is a narrow box canyon of about 3 miles in length. We are close to the end of the road, and there is no way in and out of Little Valley except by Little Valley Road. This road is designated as a rural road, and has a gravel surface, not pavement. It is barely wide enough for 2 cars to pass, going slowly or pulling off. The construction equipment necessary for such a project would be unlikely to be able to negotiate the road as it is.

We bought this land in 2008, and on it are a renovated log cabin from the 1860's and a barn from about 1900, attesting to the rural nature of the area. It is also exceedingly steep. Last summer, about ¼ mile of our driveway, which goes up Jack Mountain off Little Valley Road, washed out in an isolated deluge, to the point where it was completely impassable and had to be redone. The property above us is too steep to hike, connects to the GWNF and is filled with Karst (please see attached report, by hydrologist William K. Jones). Our drinking water comes from a spring adjacent to the pipeline route, and the pipeline would traverse the existing water line from the spring to our cabin. Aside from the devastation caused by the physical construction on our land, I am very concerned about the integrity of the water supply. It would be uninhabitable without the spring.

We have abundant wildlife on our property, including not only deer, turkey, grouse, owls, but also smaller animals such as Red Efts. I have seen at least one of these each year, and know that they indicate an unpolluted ecosystem. We would like to keep it this way.

Twin Meadows, as we call our place, has come to represent a haven from the sometimes stressful environments in which my husband and I work. It is a place to recharge and relax, and yet now, it has become fraught with worry. The potential for this pipeline to be built on our land, the horror of the construction itself, and the concern about potential landslides, explosions and difficulty escaping should these things occur have caused us many sleepless nights and untold worry. My life has been completely changed by this turn of events, and I urge you to remove this constant stress by rethinking the route.

This part of Bath County is incompatible with the construction needs of a project like the ACP. We fervently hope that after seeing this area, that the route for the ACP be re-evaluated. Therefore, I respectfully ask that FERC carry out a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for not only the ACP, but for all the proposed pipelines in the Virginia and West Virginia areas.

Sincerely,

Lora D. Baum

lorabaum@embarqmail.com