

To: Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

From: Paul Kamienski, PhD ChE
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Re: OPPOSITION to Atlantic Coast Pipeline in WV and VA
ACP Docket Number: CP15-554-000; GWNF-6 alternative

Date: May 30, 2016

Dear Secretary Rose:

I have a home in Pocahontas County, WV which is within the evacuation zone and close to the blast zone of the currently proposed routing of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. I was unable to attend the FERC Scoping Meeting in Marlinton on May 20, as I was travelling in the West. I understand from neighbors that there was a good turnout at the scoping meeting. I am **STRONGLY OPPOSED** to this pipeline in WV and VA for economic, environmental, safety, and quality of life reasons.

NO ECONOMIC BENEFITS - There are no economic benefits for ACP in WV and VA, especially for the counties through which it passes. While there are claims of benefits from added jobs and land owner lease fees for some, these are very small compared to the potential long term costs to the “pass through counties” for this pipeline. While lower electricity rates have been suggested for some locations in VA, the basis for these estimates are questionable and the investment costs required to convert any existing power plants to natural gas have not been included. If as has been suggested, some, most or all of the gas will be routed to a terminal on the Atlantic Coast for export, the only significant benefits that would accrue from this project would be to the private producing and pipe line operating companies. If low cost natural gas would be supplied locally to stimulate business and job and associated job growth, that would be a tangible economic benefit. However, that is not the case and therefore this project is not for public benefit and is only for private gain.

DISTURBING NATIONAL AND STATE FORESTS AND OTHER PRISTINE LANDS - ACP would pass though the pristine Monongahela and George Washington National Forest as well as the Seneca State Forest, among the most beautiful in West Virginia with numerous scenic and wild mountain rivers and streams. Clear cutting a 100+ ft. wide swath over very difficult and mountainous terrain while crossing several of these streams including the Greenbrier River, the longest undammed river in the East, is clearly not justified. While thinning the forest and harvesting timber is within the documented mission of the U.S. Forest Service, allowing construction of a private pipeline for private gain through the forest with all of the associated environmental issues is clearly not an intended use of public forest lands.

KARST TOPOGRAPH AND ENVIRONMENTAL AND WELL WATER IMPACTS - The topography in the proposed ACP route consists of fracture limestone, numerous fissures and caves. Pipeline construction can disrupt aquifers for many miles, leading to contamination of well water, as well as contamination and sedimentation in streams. Virtually everyone in this area of Pocahontas County depends upon private wells for drinking water, and disruption or contamination of these wells would be a major problem that would not be easily corrected. Similarly, disruption of the trout fisheries, some of the best in the East, would be intolerable. I cannot imagine how FERC could explain how they granted approval for such a pipeline if any or all of these events were to occur.

SAFETY and EGRESS - The proposed pipeline is a large, high pressure pipeline transporting a highly flammable and potentially explosive gas. There are published data on the extent of blast zones and photos and videos showing that most everything within a natural gas blast zone is incinerated. Similarly, evacuation zones for a large and high pressure pipeline such as ACP are reported to be $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 mile. There are a number of homes and businesses within both of these zones for the proposed ACP route. I doubt that many of the home and landowners, including those that have expressed interest in the lease fees, are aware of this serious hazard, nor do I think anyone has explained it to them. I also doubt they are aware of the impact this pipeline would have on their property values. While the probability of such an incident is not high, the impact if it were to occur would be great due to the remoteness, the inadequacy of local volunteer fire department and emergency services to deal with such an event, as well as the limited and poor roads for egress. There are few bridges and roads across the Greenbrier River and the currently proposed route would pass within a few hundred yards of the bridge in Clover Lick, clearly within both the blast and evacuation zones. Significant economic benefits to the people in Pocahontas County might justify such a risk, but as pointed out above since there are no benefits for them, this risk is clearly not justified.

QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS - The families of many residents in the rural Pocahontas County have lived there for several generations. They do not have what many people in other areas would consider necessities, including cell phone service (none at all due to NRAO quiet zone), high speed internet (none at all, or very slow at best), and limited public services, and the area is often depressed economically with few jobs. Compensating factors, which attract others to the area including myself, include beautiful scenery, unspoiled forests, low population density, friendly and helpful neighbors, lots of opportunity for fishing, hunting and in general a slower less hectic way of life. Threatening these compensating factors without significant benefits to the people is a poor proposition.

In addition, Pocahontas County and other similar rural counties are economically heavily dependent upon tourism, and the ACP both during and after construction would clearly not have a positive impact on this major source of income.

PROJECT FOCUS AND PRIORITIES - While potential benefits, concern for the land, the environment and the landowners etc. are part of the ACP overview presentations to the community, one has to wonder if the project timeline and project completion is the real overriding priority. As an example, the routing of the pipeline has changed several times over the last few months. Initially, the pipeline was planned further north in Pocahontas County, near Thornwood, crossing largely through the Monongahela Forest, but the U.S. Forest Service would not give ACP access reportedly because they were not convinced that

adequately trained personnel would be used or the required environmental assessments would be properly and thoroughly conducted. The routing was then changed to progress south along the east side of Rt-219 to Linwood on both private and forest lands, passing close to the Snowshoe Mountain access road both on the mountain and in the valley near populated areas. Naturally, Snowshoe was not in favor of this route, and within a few days the route was again changed - this time west of Rt-219 through Slaty Fork, Clover Lick and Frost, still passing through the Monongahela, George Washington and Seneca Forests. Along this currently proposed route, ACP is actively attempting to get landowners to agree to sign leases. However, it is not clear that topography, environmental or any of the other very important issues are being considered as the route is changed.

Just to be clear on my position, I have worked in industry for many years, and I am not against progress per se, but this project provides no real benefits and only potentially major problems for the people of WV especially in rural areas like Pocahontas County. Hence, I STRONGLY OPPOSE the ACP through Pocahontas County on any of the suggested routes and especially on the Clover Lick route. I encourage FERC not to approve this pipeline through WV and VA.