

FERC representatives:

My name is Ruth Selden-Sturgill(FERC ID #F326094) and I live in the Warm Springs district of Bath County Virginia. My letter refers to ACP Docket Number: CP15-554-000. Please understand that I am strongly opposed to the GWNF-6 Atlantic Pipeline route in its entirety. In 2015 my husband, a retired pharmacologist at the University of Virginia, and I, an architectural historian, moved permanently to Warm Springs from Charlottesville Virginia. We had been vacationing in Bath County for over thirty years and as Charlottesville turned from a small university town into yet another urban center, we decided to move. It was in Bath County that our children had learned to ski, bird watch, name wild flowers and stars. They studied the life cycle of insects and began to fly fish. We can proudly say that both our son and daughter can catch, clean and cook a trout because of their wildlife experience all over Bath County. It was here that our whole family could relax together in the unspoiled natural shelter of the Alleghany Highlands.

For over two hundred years very little has changed in Bath County. Driving a wagon or automobile, visitors to the county seat have crossed the top of Warm Springs Mountain, taken in the breathtaking view over the unblemished pastures and down to a small settlement on the valley floor. From the top they have looked off west into the distance through the dappled light on the shoulders of Warm Springs Gap and then they are hurtled into the exhilarating descent between the hills and ridges which open out into hay fields as they approach the bottom. The reward which greets the visitors in the valley, the unhurried enjoyment of the Warm Springs mineral pools, has not changed since the 18th century.

The small settlement around the pools was originally known as Bath Court House and even then it welcomed overnight visitors with friendly hospitality. The simplicity of this common gesture has lived on in this county which still offers visitors relaxation and relief in it's soothing waters. Renowned for its high quality, the area's water in all its complex manifestations continues as the life blood of the rural

economy and serves as the golden goose which draws vitally important numbers of visitors who stay in the hotels, eat at the restaurants, attend the concerts, play the golf, hire the contractors, and finally buy the homes and summer houses.

In spite of the economic down turn which began in 2008, two new businesses have joined the Bath County community and made a commitment not only to revitalize and enlarge their hostelries but to restore several of the historic buildings surrounding the Warm Springs pools. Intelligent investors have recognized the value of an unspoiled, natural setting which has proven its ability to provide refreshment from the stress of modern life as well as a modest living to those who can provide it.

However the renewed balance in the rural Bath County business community is now at risk from the unfettered rush of corporate competition in the natural gas industry which lacks moderating oversight and has no sympathy towards the nation's desire to diversify its energy sources. Once again as in the 1930s when FERC was created, wild corporate speculation in one monopolizing industry threatens to plunder communities and usurp private property while dangerously committing the country to dependence on only one energy source.

Four separate privately-held companies are gobbling up land through a misuse of eminent domain and directing with dangerous haste their own construction units to scrape four gigantic corridors, one the width of Washington DC's 495 beltway, across some of Virginia's most beautiful natural landscapes. In its quest to be the first to cross the state, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is conveniently ignoring the destruction it will inevitably cause to local water systems, the danger it will inflict when local roads are blocked and access to hospitals is imperiled and the very possible devastation of the economy which rests on the long-held reputation of its unspoiled natural landscape. In light of these threats it is unconscionable that the Federal authorities

are not insisting on the completion of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Study. I support the completion of such a study.

Finally, recent studies indicate that the substantial number of existing pipelines can carry enough natural gas to meet the needs of the east coast population and its businesses over the next several decades. Other studies indicate that the life of the Marcellus fields' supply may be shorter than we have been lead to believe. At present there is no overarching government attempt to determine whether all these privately held pipelines will be realistically used or whether some will simply become redundant. Then why the rush to supply natural gas along the east coast?

The aptly named ACT offers a clue to at least one of the answers. Like so many of the natural gas lines being constructed in the eastern half of the nation and up even to Nova Scotia, the ACT has an important spur which runs to an established Atlantic Coast port where billion dollar cooling facilities are being built in order to condense the product for shipment to the higher paying markets in China and Europe. The rationale of "national need" is a charade. As one prominent gulf coast investor clearly stated, we should "let the gas go into the global market." And when that happens the people of Bath County along with others in Virginia, who have been required to give up their private property to eminent domain, will be competing with the high prices of the global economy for natural gas being funneled through their own back yards. And because the Federal government has been so short sighted as to let only one resource dominate our energy industry, we, as a people will continue to be threatened by global politics and the self-serving methods of corporations which enjoy protection not afforded the rest of us. Thank you. Ruth Selden-Sturgill

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