



ABRA Update #86 – June 30, 2016

Report on Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency: Dominion is in Last Place

A new report of the nation's major electric utility companies on clean energy deployment found Dominion Resources to be the weakest performer. *Benchmarking Utility Clean Energy Deployment* compared utility holding companies on three key indicators of clean energy deployment, using the latest available data (2014) from a variety of sources:

- Renewable Energy Sales – Dominion was 23rd out of 29 companies, with 2.18% of sales; the mean of the measured companies was 5 times as high as Dominion's figure, 10.17%.
- Incremental energy efficiency savings – Dominion was 30th out of 30 companies, with 0.10%; the mean was 0.97%.
- Life Cycle energy efficiency savings – Dominion was 29th out of 29 companies, with 1.5%; the mean was 9.93%.

The report was conducted by Ceres, a nonprofit organization mobilizing business and investor leadership on climate change, water scarcity and other sustainability challenges (www.ceres.org), in partnership with Clean Edge, Inc., a research and advisory firm devoted to the clean-tech sector. A copy of the complete report is on the [ABRA website](#).

Gov. McAuliffe Establishes Clean Energy Workgroup

A work group “to study and recommend methods to reduce carbon emissions from electric power generation facilities” has been established by Virginia Governor McAuliffe in an [Executive Order issued June 28](#). It will be chaired by Molly Ward, Secretary of Natural Resources, and is to provide a report on its recommendations by May 31, 2017.

Deadline Extended for Pipeline Survey Responses

The deadline for responses to the survey on the April 23 Pipeline Summit has been extended to next Wednesday, July 6 (from July 1). For those Summit attendees who have not yet participated, please do so by visiting t <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FFK25PX>. The survey is short, so it will take you less than a minute to respond. Thanks!

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – *Lew Freeman*, lewfreeman@gmail.com

In the News – *Dan Shaffer*, dshaffer@abralliance.org

Mountain Valley Pipeline EIS Delayed

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has announced a schedule for the issuance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). In a [June 28 notice](#) FERC set March 10, 2017 as a target for issuing a final EIS with June 8, 2017 as the decision deadline for the project. It had been expected that a draft EIS for the MVP would be issued perhaps as early as this June. The draft EIS is now targeted for issuance in September.

March on the Mansion Set for July 23 in Richmond

Sixty organizations throughout Virginia, including ABRA and several of its members, are sponsoring a March on the Mansion in Richmond on Saturday, July 23. The event is designed to demonstrate the deep concern that Virginians have over the energy and environment policies of the McAuliffe Administration. The March was first announced in a [June 15 open letter to the Governor](#).

Bus transportation to Richmond will be available from several locations, including Staunton, Nelson County and Charlottesville, particulars of which will be forthcoming. More information on the March is available at www.marchonthemansion.org and in a [special video message](#) from Jane Kleeb, who spoke to the April 23 Pipeline Summit.

Mark your calendars and plan to be in Richmond. This will be an important event!

Senate Hearing Provides a Forum for the Debate on Energy Infrastructure

A June 14 oversight hearing before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources provided a portrait of the contrasting views on the need for new and improved energy infrastructure in the United States. Complete details of the hearing are available [here](#).

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Chairman of the committee, opened the hearing by observing:

“We know that pipelines directly create jobs in their construction, maintenance, and operation. We know these are good jobs. We know that pipelines indirectly create jobs because it is a materials-intensive industry. These are also good jobs. And we know that all of this induces economic growth and additional job creation. If I can reduce that to a bumper sticker, it would be that jobs are good. Energy is good. Energy jobs are great.”

A different perspective was offered in the opening statement of the committee’s Ranking Member, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA):

“We undoubtedly will need some additional natural gas pipeline capacity . . . but as the Department of Energy’s Quadrennial Energy Review suggests, we should focus first on using existing pipelines more efficiently and making sure that the process for granting a certificate for a new pipeline explores better ways to utilize existing capacity, to mitigate other issues and to make sure that we are making the right decision.”

Sen. Cantwell’s point was echoed in the testimony of N. Jonathan Peress, Director of Air Policy for the Environmental Defense Fund:

“With the magnitude of new pipeline projects under development in addition to those deployed over the past 10 years, there are signs that a gas pipeline capacity bubble is forming. A capacity bubble could impose unnecessary costs on energy customers for expensive yet unneeded pipeline capacity, and ultimately constrain deployment of lower cost energy sources like wind and solar in the future considering the long financial lives and expense of new capacity. Where new pipeline capacity is financed by market participants who choose to risk

their capital to capture benefits, the prospects of an overbuild are not particularly troublesome from the economic standpoint of society as a whole. However, a pipeline capacity build-out induced by policies designed to spread the costs of new infrastructure on captive retail gas or electric ratepayers will almost surely become un-economic, undermine market drivers for more efficient solutions and impose unacceptable long term environmental and economic costs”

Dominion Files More Information, much of it Publically Unavailable

Dominion Transmission, Inc. made another voluminous [filing on June 17](#) of supplemental information on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The information in part responds to previous requests from FERC. Several items in the filing are declared by Dominion to be unavailable to the public, categorized either as “Privileged Information” or “Critical Energy Infrastructure Information,” including information relating to the Buckingham Compressor Station. Among the information items declared by Dominion to be available for public review are various route changes that have been made in recent months, updated topographic and aerial route maps, miscellaneous correspondence and identification efforts for various endangered species. (For a commentary on one of the filed documents, see below the news item entitled “Dominion’s site plans tell a sad story.”)

Jane Kleeb Elected Head of Nebraska Democrats

The Nebraska Democratic Party elected Jane Kleeb as its new state chair at the party’s convention on June 18. Kleeb, founder of Bold Nebraska, was a featured speaker at ABRA’s April 23 Pipeline Summit and returned to the Virginia-West Virginia area in mid-June to participate in the “Seeds of Resistance” corn planting along the proposed routes of the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines. In an [editorial](#) on Kleeb’s election and the challenges she will face, the *Lincoln Journal Star* observed that “the battle to stop the Keystone XL also looked like a lost cause when Kleeb jumped into the fray. At the very least, Nebraskans can expect some originality and innovation to emanate from Democratic Party headquarters in coming months. That will benefit all Nebraskans – including Republicans.”

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dominion CEO more like ‘wolf in sheep’s clothing’

- The Recorder – 6/30/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Dominion_CEO_wolf_sheeps_clothing-Recorder_6-30-16.pdf

Letter blasts Dominion executive who claims to be “one of us”

Sierra Club seeks pipeline antitrust probe

- The Recorder – 6/30/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Sierra_Club_seeks_pipeline_antitrust_probe-Recorder_6-30-16.pdf

Sierra Club request notes many angles from which Dominion’s plans may be illegal

Kate Addleson: Energy policy doesn't belong in Dominion's control

- The Virginian Pilot – 6/26/16

http://pilotonline.com/opinion/columnist/guest/kate-addleson-energy-policy-doesn-t-belong-in-dominion-s/article_becf5c7c-2638-54c5-a6cb-3fd6884b3b1a.html

Nationally and historically, US energy policy HAS been under utilities’ control...look where that’s gottenus

Related:

http://www.richmond.com/news/article_f5bd6b5b-39b3-5017-9efe-9c0feabc4a9c.html

Dominion's site plans tell a sad story

- News Leader – 6/25/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2016/06/25/dominions-site-plans-tell-sad-story/86390078/>

Schematics give clarity to impacts and a human story to the abstract line on the map

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

McAuliffe plans to sidestep legislature on climate change

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 6/28/16

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_ff96c88-e59e-53ea-ae20-113d3c471f9a.html

Sooo...rate-based or mass-based, Mr. Governor? What's it gonna be? We'd like specifics!

Related:

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/mcauliffe-seeks-to-curb-climate-change-in-face-of-criticism-from-left-and-right/2016/06/28/998144fa-3d53-11e6-80bc-d06711fd2125_story.html

FERC issues schedule for environmental review for Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 6/28/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/ferc-issues-schedule-for-environmental-review-for-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_ebadefc4-aa0b-54d6-8507-e6cceb0dfoab.html

MVP Project clears another hurdle...

Big Picture:

Brexit Sparks Worry About Fate of Global Climate Action

- Inside Climate News – 6/24/16

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/24062016/brexit-sparks-worry-about-fate-global-climate-action-britain-european-union>

Many fear Brexit will harm international efforts to halt global warming

Congresswoman will call for pipeline regulator overhaul

- NJ.com – 6/28/16

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2016/06/congresswoman_will_call_for_pipeline_regulator_ove.html

And we hope a few more will take up the banner...what's up VA & WV Reps and Senators?!

Get Your Pipeline Out of My Yard

- Bloomberg – 6/23/16

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-23/get-your-pipeline-out-of-my-yard>

Opposition and economics team to give the pipeline industry continued headaches

Related:

<http://about.bgov.com/blog/new-barrier-pipelines-path-brutal-economics/>

PG&E to close Diablo Canyon nuclear plant, replace it with renewables, efficiency, storage

- Utility Dive – 6/21/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/pg-e-to-close-diablo-canyon-nuclear-plant-replace-it-with-renewables-effi/421297/>

The end of nuclear power in California?

How Fracking for Natural Gas Became the Terrible New Norm

- AlterNet – 6/24/16

<http://www.alternet.org/books/how-fracking-natural-gas-became-terrible-new-norm>

Book excerpt a good summary of fracking, climate issues and activism over last decade

Millennials drive electrification of transportation sector

- Electric Light & Power – 6/21/16

<http://www.elp.com/articles/2016/06/millennials-drive-electrification-of-transportation-sector.html>

Putting some numbers to the commonly-heard “energy transition” phrase