

Amelia L Williams, Afton, VA.
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC)
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000)
PF15-6-000)
) March 19, 2017
)
Dominion Transmission, Inc.)
Docket Nos. CP15-555-000)
PF15-5-000)
)
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and)
Piedmont Natural Gas Company)
Docket No. CP15-556-000)

Dear Secretary Bose:

I am writing as a Nelson County landowner and resident for over 22 years to request that the FERC rescind the DEIS in this matter because the DEIS is inadequate, and prevents members of the public and concerned parties from making any meaningful assessment of the potential impacts.

The DEIS is inadequate on many fronts, which have been addressed by many organizations and individuals. I am especially concerned about the impacts of the proposed project on erosion, runoff, and slope stability; on issues of economic impact in Nelson County; and on issues of environmental impacts in the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests.

If the FERC does not rescind the DEIS, I request that the present public comment period should be placed in abeyance until a revised DEIS is issued, at which time a new public comment period should be granted.

The proposed project to drill under the Blue Ridge Mountains using horizontal drilling (HDD) methods, or should these fail, using conventional direct pipe installation (DPI), requires detailed geophysical investigation of the drill path; this is standard practice for assessing the feasibility or prospective HDD or DPI operations. The current information in the DEIS is limited in its scope and its reliability.

It is notable that the conditions at Peters Mountain in the Jefferson National Forest that made proposed HDD operations infeasible are similar to those in the proposed Blue Ridge HDD operation; the borings must be done correctly along the proposed drill path - not just at the endpoints - and a comparison of the factors that led to different conclusions at the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Peters Mountain site and the ACP Blue Ridge Mountain HDD operations must be made.

The DEIS currently does not have adequate site-specific details about erosion and sediment control, storm water management, and slope-failure prevention. This information must be supplied before permitting.

Threats and impacts of the proposed pipeline to unbroken forest (important for wildlife habitat and important to prevent introduction of invasive species), to storm water management, and to plans for erosion and sediment control along access roads in the national Forest must be provided before permitting can proceed.

Nelson County is a rural county that depends heavily on agri-tourism, and destination outdoor recreation businesses. These, in turn, rely on scenic viewsheds, superb water quality, and maintaining the county's the rural character and outdoors and wilderness recreational opportunities. The ACP would impact all of these to the detriment of our county - an impact that the independent Key-Log Economics study assessed at between \$4.4 and \$15.8 million in lost ecosystem service value over the construction period and a loss of between \$1.3 and \$4.5 million over the lifetime of the ACP.

The overall effects on property values, and personal income to sole proprietorships are devastating. I moved to this county to raise my sons in a rural environment and I hoped they might have the opportunity to join one of the burgeoning local foods and craft beverage businesses, or to start businesses of their own in this region whose natural beauty and recreational opportunities they love - but the devastating effect the ACP would have on the county may well force them away to cities, as seniors stop retiring here and tourists stop visiting.

I request that a new DEIS be provided - one that incorporates the hundreds of filings that have been made since this version of the DEIS was issued, and that the public comment period be halted and re-instated once an adequate document is issued, containing all the pertinent and site-specific reviews and assessments.

Sincerely,

Amelia L. Williams, PhD
Afton, VA

Document Content(s)

56041.TXT.....1-2