



ABRA Update #26 – April 30, 2015

FERC Asks ACP For Additional Information

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on April 28 instructed the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) to provide greater detail and more explicit explanations about its proposed project. The FERC request relates to Resource Reports 1 and 10, filed by ACP with the agency in December. Among the 26 specific information requests, FERC asked ACP to provide the following:

- A discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of routing the planned pipeline on ridgetops, across steep terrain and in valley floors;
- A description of the impacts pipeline construction would have in a karstic setting, specifically in regards to triggering sinkholes or affecting groundwater, springs, seeps or cave systems;
- An explanation of how the ACP would identify new or expanded sinkholes during operation of the pipeline;
- A description of how the ACP would maintain access to and from residences and businesses during potential emergency situations; and
- Present in greater detail potential route alternatives, including “any alternative or potential route alternative(s) that were dismissed from consideration and present evidence to support the specific environmental reasons for dismissing the alternative.”

A copy of the April 28 FERC letter is available on the ABRA website at

[http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC Comments to ACP RRs -1 n 10 4-28-15.pdf](http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC_Comments_to_ACP_RRs_-1_n_10_4-28-15.pdf)

U.S. EPA files ACP Scoping Comments With FERC

Scoping comments on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline were filed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on April 28. The EPA comments identifies a number of issues and makes numerous recommendations to FERC as it prepares an environmental impact statement (EIS), including:

- The EIS should contain information and analysis adequate to document compliance with the Clean Water Act, including the identification of the least environmental damaging practicable alternative.”
- EPA recommends “proposed-action related activities in or near wellhead (drinking water) protection areas, upstream of drinking-water supply intakes, springs regions – including any fault zones and karst areas and karst terrain.”

- Address for each waterbody to be crossed “the worst-case scenarios associated with the proposed crossing method.”
- Impacts to recreational hunting in the area.

The EPA’s submission is available on ABRA’s website at http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/EPA_Scoping_Comments_ACP_4-28-15.pdf

Forest Service Gives O.K. To Pipeline Surveys in Monongahela and Jefferson National Forests

The Forest Supervisors for the Jefferson National Forest and the Monongahela National Forests have approved surveying requests for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (Jefferson) and Atlantic Coast Pipeline (Monongahela).

An April 27 Decision Memo issued by Jefferson National Forest Supervisor H. Thomas Speaks details the parameters of the decision to permit surveying for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. The document is available at http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3836056.pdf

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline’s proposed route through the Monongahela National Forest was permitted to be surveyed in a similar action by Forest Supervisor Clyde Thompson. In announcing his decision, Thompson said: “If the pipeline is allowed, information gained from these surveys will be critical for avoiding or reducing impacts to sensitive resources.” For more details, see <http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20150423/GZ01/150429630>

ABRA Members File Comments With FERC

An excellent body of comments were filed with FERC by most ABRA members as part of the scoping process for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Those comments are posted on the ABRA website. If your organization’s comments are not among them, please send them to Dan Shaffer at dshaffer@abralliance.org

In The News...

ACP/Local Concern:

Proposed pipeline faces new questions as federal comment period closes

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4/29/15
http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_3b4926d7-20c5-537b-ae3a-64826013987d.html
EPA wants answers to some of the same questions our members have been asking.

Opinion/Editorial: More talks on pipeline necessary

- The Daily Progress – 4/27/15
http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-editorial-more-talks-on-pipeline-necessary/article_6170fb46-ece1-11e4-b00d-ab24bdd55166.htm
FERC between a rock and a hard place to promote both fairness and consistency in its process.

Zeller: Why we need a local veto on pipelines – Roanoke Times – 4/26/15

- http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/zeller-why-we-need-a-local-veto-on-pipelines/article_ca875b63-c152-5efe-8420-de321f443e64.html
Using the Dillon Rule to protect communities from dangerous, unwanted development.

People's Biz: U.S. Rep. Rouzer supports proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Fayetteville Observer – 4/28/15
http://www.fayobserver.com/blogs/news/peoples_business/people-s-biz-u-s-rep-rouzer-supports-proposed-atlantic/article_67b0aa40-ec78-11e4-a179-a36a20d6c9b8.html
Another Rep. promotes jobs and development associated with ACP project.

The Truth About Dominion Resources

- Beyond Extreme Energy – 4/22/15
<http://beyondextremeenergy.org/2015/04/22/the-truth-about-dominion-resources/>
Chesapeake Climate Action Network exposes Dominion's dirty little secrets.

Regional/Other Projects (MVP, AppCon, etc.):

Mountain Valley Pipeline FERC Scoping Meetings

- Chesapeake Climate Action Network – (*calendar of events*)
<http://chesapeakeclimate.org/event/mountain-valley-pipeline-ferc-scoping-meetings/>

Roanoke County to make pipeline recommendations to FERC

- Roanoke Times – 4/28/15
http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke-county-to-make-pipeline-recommendations-to-ferc/article_9e7a4bc1-db68-5247-b814-bf204a48fb82.html
Local officials draft request to FERC to extend scoping period and add scoping meetings.

Virginia Tech students aim to create pipeline information clearinghouse

- Roanoke Times – 4/27/15
http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/virginia-tech-students-aim-to-create-pipeline-information-clearinghouse/article_8a949ce5-93c9-51f9-8c1c-3e952db65fe9.html
Students get involved. Try to maintain objectivity while educating the public.

Big Picture:

Markey: DOE's QER Highlights Need to Update Natural Gas Pipelines, Fight Climate Change – Senator Ed Markey's Website – 4/21/15

- <http://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-does-qer-highlights-need-to-update-natural-gas-pipelines-fight-climate-change>
Natural Gas Infrastructure needs upgrading. Is key component of reducing emissions.

SCOTUS Holds Natural Gas Act Does Not Preempt State Law Antitrust Claims

- JD Supra Business Advisor – 4/23/15
<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/scotus-holds-natural-gas-act-does-not-pr-80258/>
Natural Gas Act does not protect interstate pipeline operators from suits involving retail price manipulation.

FERC Issues Policy Statement On Natural Gas Pipeline Modernization Cost Recovery

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4/23/15
<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/ferc-issues-policy-statement-on-natural-11975/>
Forced to wonder if this includes NEW pipeline projects and whether the VA law freezing Dominion's rates applies.

Master Limited Partnerships: Paying Other People's Taxes

- The Tax Analyst's Blog – 6/21/10
<http://www.taxanalysts.com/taxcom/taxblog.nsf/Permalink/UBEN-86LJ4E?OpenDocument>

Money in politics: What do donations buy?

- The Virginia Gazette – 4/27/15
<http://www.vagazette.com/news/va-vg-money-in-politics-what-do-donations-buy-20150427.0.3607940.story>
Of COURSE there is no proof that donations buy influence!

A Million Miles of Unfit Pipeline Are Accidents Waiting to Happen

- Epoch Times – 4/27/15
<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/1335030-a-million-miles-of-unfit-pipeline-are-accidents-waiting-to-happen/>
Repurposing of old pipelines, understaffed regulators, inadequate monitoring spells accidents!