



ABRA Update #6 – November 23, 2014

Dominion Announces Open Houses for ACP

Dominion Transmission filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 20 a schedule of 11 open houses to be held between January 6 and 22, 2015. The open houses are required by FERC as part of the pre-filing process. The announced schedule is below.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline					
January 6 – 8		January 12 - 15		January 19 - 22	
Tuesday January 6	Cumberland County, NC Doubletree Hotel 1965 Cedar Creek Rd. Fayetteville, NC 28312	Monday January 12	City of Chesapeake, VA Jolliff Middle School Cafeteria 1021 Jolliff Road. Chesapeake, VA 23321	Monday January 19	Holiday
Wednesday January 7	Johnston County, NC Johnston Community College 245 College Road Smithfield, NC 27577	Tuesday January 13	Nottoway County, VA Camp Pickett Officers' Club 3951 Military Road Pickett Park Blackstone, VA 23824	Tuesday January 20	Augusta County, VA Augusta Expo 277 Expo Road Fishersville, VA 22939
Thursday (Mid-day) January 8	Northampton County, NC Cultural & Wellness Center 9536 NC 305 Hwy Jackson, NC 29202	Wednesday January 14	Nelson County, VA Nelson County High School 6919 Thomas Nelson Hwy Route 29 Lovingston, VA 22949	Wednesday January 21	Randolph County, WV Gandy Dancer Conference Center 359 Beverly Pike Elkins, WV 26241
Thursday (Evening) January 8	Dinwiddie County, VA Sunnyside Elementary Auditorium 10203 Melvin B. Alsbrooks Ave. McKenney, VA 23872	Thursday January 15	Highland County, VA Highland Center 61 Highland Center Drive Monterey, VA 24465	Thursday January 22	Lewis County, WV WVU Jackson's Mill 160 WVU Jackson Mill Weston, VA 26452

More information on the planned open houses will be forthcoming in the next Update.

Difference Between Open Houses and Scoping Meetings

The FERC process requires an applicant company to conduct open houses to during the pre-filing period. These are different from the September open houses Dominion held in each county along the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which were conducted as a part of the company's public outreach/public relations efforts for the project. FERC will also be holding in March and April several "scoping meetings." The difference between these meetings is described at <http://www.ferc.gov/help/faqs/prefiling.asp>. An excerpt of that discussion is below.

As part of the Company's community outreach program in Commission's pre-filing process, the Company will hold Open Houses in the vicinity of the proposed project area to share information about its project with the public.

The Commission frequently sends staff to attend open houses during pre-filing to answer questions, discuss the FERC's pre-filing process, and invite stakeholders/public to participate in the environmental and certificate application proceedings. An important component of the NEPA review of projects involves public input early in the process.

The goal of the Commission's pre-filing process is to notify all project stakeholders, including potentially affected property owners, so that Company and the Commission Staff can provide a forum to hear the issues relevant to those stakeholders. The Company may then incorporate proposed mitigation measures into the project design from comments received from stakeholders.

Scoping meetings, which are sponsored by FERC, are utilized by staff to identify relevant issues of major Certificate projects, pursuant to NEPA. Scoping is the process of defining and refining the scope of a environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA) and the alternatives to be investigated. The scoping process is one of the opportunities for public involvement.

ABRA Hires Communications and Research Coordinator

Daniel Shaffer has been hired as Communications and Research Coordinator for the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. The part-time position will be responsible for coordinating the gathering and disseminating of information to Alliance members regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. He will also assist with various research projects associated with the ACP. Dan will be responsible to the ABRA Steering Committee and report directly to the Chair, Lew Freeman.

Dan has been an analyst and manager of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) projects, as well as a scientist for environmental remediation projects. Most recently he was on assignment for Sanborn Map Company in Qatar to manage a team of field technicians to validate a GIS database concerned with infrastructures in that country. Before that he was with Furgo Atlantic and was responsible for designing a GIS database of subsurface geotechnical data in the Hampton Roads area. He received his BA in Geography from Virginia Tech University, with a major in GIS and Remote Sensing and a minor in Geology. Dan lives in Staunton, VA.

Please welcome Dan and add him to your respective information lists: dshaffer@abralliance.org.

New Position Funded by Grant and Contributions, But More Help Needed

ABRA has been awarded a \$15,000 grant through the New World Foundation to fund the Communications and Research Coordinator position. A big thanks is due to Faye Cooper (Cooper Conservation Advisors, LCC) for preparing the grant application and to Megan Gallagher (Shenandoah Valley Network) for negotiating the "rapids" toward approval. The grant will cover 2/3rds of the \$22,000 budget for the first year of the position. Additional funds must come from contributions. We have received generous contributions so far from Highlanders for Responsible Development, Shenandoah Valley Network, Augusta County Alliance, Cooper Conservation Advisors and Ralph & Christina Bolgiano.

The contributions received thus far account for less than half of the \$7,000 remaining to be raised to fully fund the position. Over \$4,000 in additional funds is needed. We need your help!

Checks should be made out to Valley Conservation Council, with "ABRA Fund" noted in the memo line, and mailed to Sheryl VanGundy, Valley Conservation Council, 17 Barristers Row, Staunton, VA 24401. Thanks in advance to those who can make a contribution.

In the News . . .

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2014/11/23/us/north-dakota-oil-boom-downside.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=photo-spot-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news> .