



ABRA Update #24 – April 16, 2015

Senators question FERC over scoping

- The Recorder – 4/16/15 (excerpt – subscription)

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In a strongly worded letter dated April 7, Kaine wrote, “Given the differing, strongly held views in Virginia communities on this project, I believe it is crucial for everyone to have the opportunity to make their concerns known” about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a 42-inch gas pipeline proposed to cross Virginia from Highland to Hampton Roads and beyond.

“A number of Virginians who attended these meetings felt that this opportunity was not sufficiently given, due to a lack of clarity over precisely when citizens were able to sign up to offer verbal comment. According to several accounts, many constituents showed up at the announced start times of these meetings only to discover that all speaking slots had been claimed hours earlier,” Kaine’s letter, which included several letters and media accounts, stated.

The documents carried a common theme that Dominion gamed the system by stacking speakers known to be in favor of the project ahead of others so TV crews would record them during the first half-hour of the well-attended meetings. Accordingly, televised reports inaccurately portrayed audiences as favoring the pipeline, the documents said.

Responding to similar concerns expressed earlier by Warner, FERC chair Cheryl LaFleur wrote in a letter dated April 9 that the agency was reconsidering its protocol for scoping meetings as a result of the concerns.

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In The News...

ACP/Local Concern:

Few Legislators Take Stance on Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Nelson County Times – 4/15/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/few-legislators-take-stance-on-atlantic-coast-pipeline/article_5defeace-e3b4-11e4-95a4-6fb3b0920a8f.html

Sinkhole shuts down part of I-81 – The Northern Virginia Daily – 4/13/15

<http://www.nvdaily.com/news/2015/04/sinkhole-closes-i-81/>

VDOT: Sinkhole repairs are continuing into today on I-81

- TriCities.com/Bristol Herald Courier – 4/15/15 – ANOTHER SINKHOLE!

http://www.tricity.com/news/update-vdot-sinkhole-repairs-are-continuing-into-today-on-i/article_38c9b80a-e39e-11e4-8ced-ff4b9e31cce8.html

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

'Heavy Rains' Cited In Marshall Pipeline Failure

- Climate Progress – 4/11/15
<http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/630275.html>

DEP: 132 Barrels Spilled Into Marshall County Creek

- The Intelligencer. Wheeling News Register – 4/14/15
<http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/630514/DEP--132-Barrels-Spilled-Into-Ma---.html>

Big Picture:

Governor, energy companies say they want more lenient clean power plan

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4/14/15
http://www.richmond.com/business/local/article_8afo1526-75df-5543-ae69-ded8609c3c8f.html

Commissioner Bay assumes FERC chairmanship – HydroWorld.com – 4/16/15

- <http://www.hydroworld.com/articles/2015/04/commissioner-bay-assumes-ferc-chairmanship.html>

Palmetto Pipeline tests little-used state law – Origin of pipeline Eminent Domain? (DS)

- SavannahNow.com, Savannah Morning News - 4/11/15
<http://savannahnow.com/news/2015-04-11/palmetto-pipeline-tests-little-used-state-law>

N.C. legislation to challenge utility monopolies may be getting traction in state

- House** – Charlotte Business Journal – 4/14/15
<http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/energy/2015/04/n-c-legislation-to-challenge-utility-monopolies.html>