



ABRA Update #27 – May 6, 2015



APC Opponents Stage Rally at Dominion Shareholder Meeting

Over 150 protesters showed up Wednesday morning in Richmond, VA at the annual shareholder meeting of Dominion Resources to voice strong opposition to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Among the organizations represented were several ABRA members: Augusta County Alliance, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Friends of Buckingham County, Friends of Nelson County, Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club and Wild Virginia. Joanna Salidis, President of Friends of Nelson County, was one of the speakers:

“Dominion and its shareholders need to know that we are here today because the plan to route the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through our home deeply violates so many of our personal and community values. Property owners want Dominion to respect that ‘No’ means ‘No.’ We want Dominion to uphold their claim that eminent domain is a method of last resort -- not a gift from the government to maximize profit on the backs of unwilling private property owners and communities.”

Ernie Reed, President of Wild Virginia, said: “Landowners in these communities do not want this pipeline. The pipeline as proposed would tear apart communities, businesses and properties in Nelson, Augusta, Buckingham and Highland Counties.”

Legislation Introduced In Congress to Modernize Pipeline Approval Process

U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced legislation Wednesday to “strengthen the role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to better coordinate government

agencies involved in the pipeline permitting process. The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) and Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA).”

The “Oil and Gas production and Distribution Act” would, in the sponsor’s words, “provide more certainty around the timeframe for pipeline approvals and allow the U.S. to provide adequate pipeline infrastructure. America’s oil and natural gas production is increasing, yet there is a shortage of pipelines to support moving these natural resources. The current permitting process for pipelines often takes months or years. The slow and uncertain regulatory approval process delays construction, which delays manufacturing projects and hurts families and businesses that rely on affordable energy.”

Senators Capito and Cassidy are members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which will consider the legislation. At this writing, no bill number had been assigned.

In The News...

ACP/Local Concern:

Proposed pipeline faces new questions as federal comment period closes

- Nelson County Times – 4/30/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/proposed-pipeline-faces-new-questions-as-federal-comment-period-closes/article_1f6606f6-ef43-11e4-9796-1b12ac7c7ccd.html

Everybody has their two cents on ACP routes and necessity.

County leery of pipeline near its water resources

- The News Leader – 5/1/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2015/04/30/dominion-pipeline-augusta-county-water-resources/26647801/>

Augusta County Service Authority concerned about ACP route through public water supply recharge areas.

Dominion Facing Deadline to Respond to Pipeline Comments

- Newsplex.com – 5/1/15

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Dominion-Facing-Deadline-to-Respond-to-Pipeline-Comments-302241861.html>

Dominion has two weeks to respond to ACP comments from scoping process.

An abundance of scientific data against the pipeline

- News Leader – 5/2/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/readers/2015/05/02/abundance-scientific-data-pipeline/26765249/>

Recent editorial in support of the pipeline completely misses reams of scientific data filed in support of opposition.

Center of the state, Buckingham finds itself in middle of pipeline battle

- The Daily Progress – 5/5/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/center-of-the-state-buckingham-finds-itself-in-middle-of/article_4dae35c2-f125-11e4-9191-dbd2436648f9.html

Uncertainty over location of proposed compressor station breeds anxiety among residents.

Construction presents steep, mountainous challenges

- The Daily Progress – 5/5/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/construction-presents-steep-mountainous-challenges/article_ce54e73e-f111-11e4-968a-2b5542940c87.html

Describes risks and problems of constructing the ACP in local terrain.

Documentary on Atlantic Coast Pipeline to premiere on Tuesday

- Augusta Free Press – 5/2/15

<http://augustafreepress.com/documentary-on-atlantic-coast-pipeline-to-premiere-on-tuesday/>

Pipeline Politics: Virginia's Keystone?

- Politico – 5/3/15

http://www.politico.com/story/2015/05/virginia-keystone-pipeline-natural-gas-117578.html?hp=t1_r
Local resistance to ACP echoes that of Keystone XL fight.

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

FERC holds pipeline meeting in Monroe County

- WVNSTV.com – 5/5/15

<http://www.wvnstv.com/story/28975823/ferc-holds-pipeline-meeting-in-monroe-county>
Rundown of the meeting, participants, etc.

Property owners puzzled by Mountain Valley Pipeline route mapping decisions

- Roanoke Times – 4/30/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/property-owners-puzzled-by-mountain-valley-pipeline-route-mapping-decisions/article_1a9aa156-41b8-5e81-a53e-7b6b8d7d9984.html
Residents resent seemingly haphazard alternative route choices and unnecessary anxiety in the community.

FERC seeks input on environmental impact of Mountain Valley pipeline plan

- Roanoke Times – 5/1/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/ferc-seeks-input-on-environmental-impact-of-pipeline-plan/article_893309b5-dc88-54ce-8a16-5ded6d06c72f.html
FERC recognizes environmental impacts, requests comments from agencies and public.

Pipeline poses hidden threat to trout in Pennsylvania

- Al Jazeera America – 5/5/15

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/5/5/pipelines-pose-hidden-threat-to-trout-in-pennsylvania.html>
Details threats to trout from pipeline construction.

Court halts stream crossings by natural gas pipeline in Baltimore County

- The Baltimore Sun – 5/4/15

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/features/green/blog/bs-md-pipeline-ruling-20150504-story.html>
Stream crossings may be a viable to for delay or forcing adherence to regulations.

Big Picture:

State agency upholds Clatsop decision against gas pipeline

- Bakken.com – 4/30/15

<http://bakken.com/news/id/237885/state-agency-upholds-clatsop-decision-against-gas-pipeline/>
Danger to homes and groundwater cited.

Feds Consider Pipeline Expansion Foes' Requests for a Rehearing

- Peekskill-Cortlandt Patch – 5/1/15

<http://patch.com/new-york/peekskill/feds-consider-pipeline-expansion-foes-requests-rehearing>
Possible rehearing to consider whether FERC missed critical evidence”.

Pipeline may ruin residents' wells, health officials say

- Toledo Blade – 5/2/15

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2015/05/02/Pipeline-may-ruin-residents-wells-health-officials-say.html>
Delicate aquifers a problem for pipeline construction.

Duke Energy buys 7.5% of previously announced Sabal Trail pipeline

- PR Newswire – 5/5/15

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/duke-energy-buys-75-of-previously-announced-sabal-trail-pipeline-that-will-meet-growing-need-for-natural-gas-in-southeast-us-300077606.html>
Duke buys stake in pipeline to feed growing southern market.

Natural gas flows from shale to pipeline

– The Daily Progress – 5/6/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/natural-gas-flows-from-shale-to-pipeline/article_f16cee42-f107-11e4-8bd5-6f38554fa074.html

Description of drilling, transporting process, well to pipeline.