ABRA Planning Committee Created

A six-member Planning Committee has been named to consider how the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance should operate and be organized in the future. The creation of the committee is a result of recommendations made at the March 7 ABRA membership meeting. The principal tasks assigned to the committee are to address three principal questions:

1) What should be ABRA’s objectives and activities beyond 2015?
2) How should ABRA be organized and led beyond 2015?
3) How should ABRA be financed beyond 2015?

Members of the Planning Committee, three from the ABRA Steering Committee (*) and three persons not on the Steering Committee, are:

- Lynn Cameron, Friends of Shenandoah Mountain
- *Faye Cooper, Cooper Conservation Advisors LLC
- Swami Dayananda, Yogaville
- Elise Keaton, Greenbrier River Watershed Association
- *Ernie Reed, Wild Virginia
- *Judy Rodd, Friends of Blackwater

Lew Freeman, ABRA Chair, will serve ex-officio on the committee and coordinate its activities. A report from the group is expected by July 15. Any ABRA members who have ideas to share with Planning Committee are invited to send them to Ernie Read at lec@wildvirginia.org.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Forest Service approves more pipeline surveys
- The News Virginian – 5/7/15
  4.4 miles of additional alternative routes approved for surveys

Dominion shareholders pepper CEO with questions about the proposed natural gas pipeline
- Richmond Times Dispatch – 5/6/15
  [http://www.richmond.com/business/article_c5ee349a-f72f-588c-9cc8-958b7ad86688.html](http://www.richmond.com/business/article_c5ee349a-f72f-588c-9cc8-958b7ad86688.html)
  More of the usual lip service from Dominion at shareholders’ meeting

Dominion must find safe pipeline route – Letter to the Editor
- The Richmond Times Dispatch – 5/6/15
  [http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_4f0378a2-02bd-56b5-802a-83bb6b4b4017.html](http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_4f0378a2-02bd-56b5-802a-83bb6b4b4017.html)
  SELC’s Greg Buppert’s letter on the routing process
Pipeline impact stretches far
- The News Virginian 5/7/15
Discusses shortcomings in the ICF economic study and unmentioned economic affects

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Groups request 90-day extension on ‘scoping period’ for pipeline
- Bluefield Daily Telegraph – 5/8/15
  http://www bdtonline.com/news/groups-request-day-extension-on-scoping-period-for-pipeline/article_17e48a90-5434-11e4-b930-874ead1a1e15.html

Our view: more evidence that we don’t count
- Roanoke Times – 5/12/15
  http://www roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-more-evidence-that-we-don-t-count/article_fea05f78-a951-5823-9c0c-4788565ad8b.html
Noting the difference in opposition support between ACP and MVP – some valid concerns

Residents urge against Mountain Valley Pipeline over environmental concerns
- Roanoke Times – 5/5/15
  http://www roanoke.com/news/local/ferc-meeting-residents-urge-against-mountain-valley-pipeline-over-environmental/article_2bb93cd0-ac61-5df3-b10d-7b956da8bc42.html

From thorny to thornier: Pipeline companies tap state law to gain access to properties
- Roanoke Times – 5/8/15
Dominion contractors surveying without notice – discussion of related legal issues

Forest Service surveys pipeline segment
- SWVA Today – 5/9/15
  http://www swvatoday.com/news/wytheville/article_ab7bcea6-f424-11e4-ba10-bf441cc9eeb2.html
Forest Service issues survey permit for 10.5 miles of Jefferson National Forest

Big Picture:

Markey seeks fix for old and leaking natural gas pipelines
- The Dedham Transcript – 5/7/15
  http://dedham.wickedlocal.com/article/20150507/NEWS/150507161/?Start=1
Bill seeks to replace old and leaking pipelines that waste $Billions/year in lost gas – that we pay for

Reliance on natural gas: the pros and cons
- WickedLocal – Chatham – 5/8/15
  http://chatham.wickedlocal.com/article/20150508/NEWS/150506953/?Start=1
Increased use of gas for generation can lower prices but comes at many costs

Gas pipeline critics warn of health hazards
- Times-Herald Record – 5/8/15
  http://www recordonline.com/article/20150508/NEWS/150506952/-1/RS8777
Gas companies say that compressor stations are safe...residents disagree
FERC meeting: Hints of potential compromise emerge in new energy bill drafts
- Environment and Energy Publishing – 5/7/15
  http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060018146
  Lots of new proposals promoting gas, infrastructure, some restrictions on gas companies

Environmentalists sue FERC over Cove Point LNG project
- State Impact: Pennsylvania (NPR) – 5/7/15
  https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/05/07/environmentalists-sue-ferc-over-cove-point-lng-project/
  After re-hearing rejected, opposition groups file suit

Dominion names Robert Blue as senior officer
- The State journal – 5/8/15