



## *ABRA Update #29 – May 19, 2015*

### **CEA “Letter” Vastly Overstates Support for ACP**

In late April the Consumer Energy Alliance (CEA), an organization funded by energy companies to generate grass roots support for various energy issues in Congress and the states, issued a news release proclaiming it had “**submitted more than 20,000 comments** to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging for the swift approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.” The release went on to state that over 7,600 comments from Virginia and over 3,000 from West Virginia were filed. This is not really the case.

The “comments” filed with FERC was actually a one-page letter with 21,860 names and addresses listed. The implication that each of these people had filed their own individual comments is a decided misstatement. Further, the numbers cited for Virginia and West Virginia are a gross exaggeration of the relevant support the petition implies.

An analysis of the 728 pages of names shows that only 176 reside in the 5 counties whose water, natural resources and economies would be most prominently affected by the ACP. Specifically:

#### CEA Petitioners from selected counties

Augusta	142
Buckingham	18
Highland	0
Nelson	14
Pocahontas	2

Pondering these numbers against the implications of the CEA release reminds one of Victor Hugo’s observation: “It is the essence of truth that it is never excessive. Why should it exaggerate?” Indeed!

### **ABRA Planning Committee Needs Your Input**

The ABRA Planning Committee created as a result of the March 7 membership meeting held its first conference call meeting last week. The group’s charge is to evaluate what future role ABRA should play as an umbrella coalition and how it should be organized and financed to accomplish those objectives. The committee hopes to have a report on its recommendations completed for Steering Committee consideration and then membership review by the end of June.

You are urged to provide the committee your ideas or recommendations, the sooner the better, as it will be conferring again in another couple of weeks. Please forward your ideas to Ernie Reed ([lec@wildvirginia.org](mailto:lec@wildvirginia.org)) or Lew Freeman ([lewfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:lewfreeman@gmail.com)).

## ***In the News:***

### **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

#### **Atlantic Coast Pipeline picks several alternate route segments**

- Roanoke Times – 5/18/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/atlantic-coast-pipeline-picks-several-alternate-route-segments/article\\_330a1656-4080-5744-bb55-a6b97290e707.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/atlantic-coast-pipeline-picks-several-alternate-route-segments/article_330a1656-4080-5744-bb55-a6b97290e707.html)

#### **Lovett: United in opposition to both pipelines proposed in Virginia**

- Roanoke Times – 5/19/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/lovett-united-in-opposition-to-both-pipelines-proposed-in-virginia/article\\_911ab0f2-1558-5428-9983-89d8d4adoofe.html](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/lovett-united-in-opposition-to-both-pipelines-proposed-in-virginia/article_911ab0f2-1558-5428-9983-89d8d4adoofe.html)

Refutes the op/ed from last week, declaring NIMBYism within opposition groups

#### **US Regulators reject request for more hearings on Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 5/15/15

[http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article\\_986461af-45e1-551f-b517-eddd1f1734c.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_986461af-45e1-551f-b517-eddd1f1734c.html)

FERC says it has the info it needs. Rejects request from senators, congressman, public

#### **Pipeline builders list possible safeguards**

- The Daily Progress – 5/13/15

[http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/pipeline-builders-list-possible-safeguards/article\\_od90a872-f9cb-11e4-b5c6-53451dfde55c.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/pipeline-builders-list-possible-safeguards/article_od90a872-f9cb-11e4-b5c6-53451dfde55c.html)

More of the usual lip service from Dominion about safety. Description of what they MIGHT do to increase safety. None of it overwhelming.

#### **Response to pipeline comments submitted**

- Newsplex.com – 5/12/15

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Response-to-Pipeline-Comments-Submitted-303505701.html>

In it Dominion admits that 20,000 comments were from CEA members...but there is no elaboration.

#### **Real-estate agents: Proposed pipeline already affecting sales**

- Newsadvance.com – 5/18/15

[http://www.newsadvance.com/work\\_it\\_lynchburg/news/real-estate-agents-proposed-pipeline-already-affecting-sales/article\\_486d8e38-fcf5-11e4-b10b-5bfa67606fa1.html](http://www.newsadvance.com/work_it_lynchburg/news/real-estate-agents-proposed-pipeline-already-affecting-sales/article_486d8e38-fcf5-11e4-b10b-5bfa67606fa1.html)

Property values/sales affected merely from the THREAT of a pipeline

### **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

#### **Perry, Eustis, Glymph: Pipeline should avoid conservation easements**

- Roanoke Times – 5/17/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/perry-eustis-glymph-pipeline-should-avoid-conservation-easements/article\\_a6080dec-411e-5bd9-81ec-23227ee589ad.html](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/perry-eustis-glymph-pipeline-should-avoid-conservation-easements/article_a6080dec-411e-5bd9-81ec-23227ee589ad.html)

#### **Tracy: Pipeline is no nice walk through a cornfield**

- Roanoke Times – 5/18/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/tracy-pipeline-is-no-nice-walk-through-a-cornfield/article\\_21921c03-obcc-5fa9-ab87-fbdf3c3bfdc6.html](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/tracy-pipeline-is-no-nice-walk-through-a-cornfield/article_21921c03-obcc-5fa9-ab87-fbdf3c3bfdc6.html)

Discusses risks of pipelines

## **Big Picture:**

#### **US natural gas projects face Keystone-like resistance**

- USA Today – 5/17/15

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2015/05/17/loveless-dominion-natural-gas-keystone/27401527/>

Discusses increasing sophistication of opposition and related challenges for ACP – see ANGA below

## **Georgia landowners fight eminent domain over pipeline**

- NPR Marketplace – 5/18/15

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/business/georgia-landowners-fight-eminent-domain-over-pipeline#.VVsmEfoqoQ.gmail>

Eminent domain becoming an issue everywhere as natural gas companies race to expand pipeline networks – this discusses the Palmetto Pipeline in SC and GA

## **ANGA forum examines resistance to new gas pipeline projects**

- Penn Energy – 5/15/15

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/ogj/2015/05/anga-forum-examines-resistance-to-new-gas-pipeline-projects.html>

Discusses increasing opposition to natural gas infrastructure projects and related issues

## **Building guidelines for FERC on eminent domain**

- SentinelSource.com – 5/14/15

[http://www.sentinelsource.com/opinion/columnists/guest/building-guidelines-for-ferc-on-eminent-domain/article\\_c891bde0-67b2-5c95-81b5-d7fcc1e50ab2.html](http://www.sentinelsource.com/opinion/columnists/guest/building-guidelines-for-ferc-on-eminent-domain/article_c891bde0-67b2-5c95-81b5-d7fcc1e50ab2.html)

NH bill introduced to limit eminent domain by private companies and/or dramatically increase compensation

## **Bill would exempt pipeline companies from FOIA requests**

- The Times Herald – 5/11/15

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/local/2015/05/11/bill-exempt-pipeline-companies-foia-requests/27137043>

Under the guise of thwarting terrorist attacks. Gas companies want it passed. What a shock.