



ABRA Update #32 – June 11, 2015

Senator Kaine Staff To Hold Constituent Meetings In June

U.S. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) will be sponsoring a series of local constituent meetings this month, including several in communities that are concerned about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). Senator Kaine recently met in Richmond with a number of ABRA member representatives to discuss their reasons for opposing the ACP. He held a similar meeting in Roanoke with leaders opposed to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. These forthcoming constituent meetings with key members of the Senator's staff are an excellent opportunity for ABRA members to express their concerns about the ACP. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

A list of the meetings and staff contacts with whom to schedule an appointment is at <http://www.kaine.senate.gov/kaine-connects>.

Virginia Cave Board Stumbles Over FOIA Request On Pipeline Emails

A June 6 meeting of the Virginia Cave Board (VCB) spawned a vigorous discussion over a request for internal communications related to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Last week The Recorder newspaper, which serves Highland and Bath Counties, made a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request as part of an investigation over concerns that Dominion Resources may have influenced VCB's comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The meeting discussion revealed that the state's Department of Conservation and Recreation, for which the VCB serves in an advisory board, has not properly briefed VCB members about their responsibilities under FOIA. A Recorder story about last Saturday's VCB meeting is available http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Request_for_pipeline_emails_catches_board_off_guard_Recorder_6-11-15.pdf, as well as a related editorial http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FOIA_not_just_for_big_issues_Recorder_6-11-15.pdf.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Errors rife throughout FERC meeting transcripts, pipeline meeting speakers say

- The Daily Progress – 6/10/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/errors-rife-throughout-ferc-meeting-transcripts-pipeline-meeting-speakers-say/article_3624ce72-0fb9-11e5-b684-cb16d2286deo.html

Major errors turn up in official transcription. Speakers upset and suspicious.

Landowners sued over Atlantic Coast Pipeline survey refusals

- Nelson County Times – 6/3/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/pipeline/landowners-sued-over-atlantic-coast-pipeline-survey-refusals/article_e5c8f8a8-0a0f-11e5-ba98-275fc2e5db15.html

Feds told pipeline threatens site

- The Recorder – 6/11/15

http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/Feds_told_pipeline_threatens_site_Recorder_6-11-15.pdf
Presence of a significant natural community or habitat prompts recommendation to move route

To the detriment of many, for the profit of a few

- The News Virginian – 6/9/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest_columnists/to-the-detriment-of-many-for-the-profit-of-the/article_e1e92028-ob27-11e5-824d-of98dfc2c00a.html
Speaks to the difficulties faced by communities struggling to understand, and respond to, the potential impacts of the ACP

Wintergreen Resort announces opposition to pipeline

- The Daily Progress – 6/4/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/wintergreen-resort-announces-opposition-to-pipeline/article_4b4e6bbe-ob27-11e5-98ca-bbe2930e2bdc.html

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Montgomery County supervisor recommends pipeline route through Craig

- Roanoke Times – 6/10/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/montgomery_county/montgomery-county-supervisor-recommends-pipeline-route-through-craig/article_2e9da2a7-01c1-5d99-b3a1-32b130d81f14.html
Montgomery County Supervisor just kicked a hornet nest

Rocky Mount council hears residents' concerns about pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 6/8/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/rocky-mount-council-hears-residents-concerns-about-pipeline/article_d662317c-84ae-52a8-b9b5-a310bbc96184.html
County seeks citizen input as it seeks to determine an official stance

Summers C. Commission approves letter on pipeline concerns

- The Register Herald – 6/8/15

http://www.register-herald.com/news/summers-c-commission-approves-letter-on-pipeline-concerns/article_1d99aeb2-e44d-520f-aec9-95161108b4f1.html

Maryland joins New York as Pennsylvania border state banning fracking

- Lancaster Online – 6/3/15

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/maryland-joins-new-york-as-pennsylvania-border-state-banning-fracking/article_adf682a8-0a3a-11e5-aac1-c777c5dd46fa.html
While Maryland and New York ban fracking, Pennsylvania's governor doubles down

Big Picture:

How to Ensure New Natural Gas Infrastructure Doesn't Lock Out Renewables

- Forbes – 6/5/15

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/edfenergyexchange/2015/06/05/how-to-ensure-new-natural-gas-infrastructure-doesnt-lock-out-renewables/>
Reasonable and with interesting links to further useful material

Natural gas leaks are dangerous and exacerbate climate change

- High Country News – 6/9/15

<http://www.hcn.org/articles/natural-gas-pipeline-incidents-scary-exacerbate-climate-change-methane>
Great map of NG transmission incidents since 2010. So far, VA has escaped for the most part

Amid low prices, US oil output may be nearing peak

- Boston Globe – 6/6/15
<https://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2015/06/05/energy-boom-nearing-its-end/ToGf9NyoAc1tRDHaNZVUpN/story.html#>
“Ultimately, the ratepayers could be left holding the bag.”

Will US shale gas bring global energy prices tumbling down?

- BBC News – 6/3/15
<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-32781779>
Massive US LNG exports not likely to greatly affect anyone...except rate-payers in the US

Barack Obama chooses unknown to head beleaguered pipeline safety agency, website reports

- NOLA.com – 6/3/15
http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/06/unknown_chosen_by_obama_to_hear.html
Has experience with engineering projects and federal agencies, but no known experience in O&G.