



ABRA Update #38 – July, 23, 2015

West Virginia Environment Admits Limitations to Agency's Effectiveness

The Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Agency said his agency has a limited ability to be effective in some of its regulatory responsibilities, according to an Appalachian Chronicle article about a speech he gave on July 16. Secretary Randy Huffman's comments were made a week before several ABRA member representatives met with DEP staff to discuss concerns about the agency's ability to properly enforce erosion and soil sedimentation regulations as they relate to several proposed natural gas pipeline projects. There has also been a similar meeting with Virginia state regulatory officials. In both discussions, state regulators admitted they had limited resources and capabilities to address many of the environmental regulatory demands the proposed pipelines present.

The article about Secretary Huffman's speech is at:

<http://appalachianchronicle.com/2015/07/17/wvdep-secretary-randy-huffman-acknowledges-political-and-business-climate-in-charleston-limit-agencys-effectiveness/>.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline becoming part of General Assembly candidates' campaigns

- NewsAdvance.com – 7/20/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/pipeline-becoming-part-of-candidates-for-general-assembly-campaigns/article_3839e0f2-2f45-11e5-bdd6-97b69b1f524c.html

Candidates and incumbents realizing the importance of pipeline debate

Protestors call for McAuliffe to reject pipeline

- The News Virginian – 7/23/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/protestors-call-for-mcauliffe-to-reject-pipeline/article_abca6aae-30b3-11e5-bd50-a391a4bbc023.html

Another new path sought for pipeline in Nelson

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 7/18/15

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_e8841f85-319c-5373-9e4d-b08d2c8ea606.html

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

McAuliffe rebuffs anti-pipeline protests in Southwest Virginia

- Roanoke Times – 7/17/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/mcauliffe-rebuffs-anti-pipeline-protests-in-southwest-virginia/article_bffb1108-2ce5-11e5-a402-2b70ee9945c5.html

Judge considers Giles landowners' pipeline-related lawsuit

- Roanoke Times – 7/22/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/judge-considers-giles-landowners-pipeline-related-lawsuit/article_85e7de71-4aa2-5029-b779-cde08fco42eb.html

Morgan: Dangers of pipeline strategy in Virginia

- Roanoke Times – 7/20/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/morgan-dangers-of-pipeline-strategy-in-virginia/article_77adfo25-250a-522c-949c-ace42eed7470.html

Again – a need for a Programmatic EIS is implicated

Our view: Why do gas exports matter?

- Roanoke Times – 7/23/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-why-do-gas-exports-matter/article_9fcc8ec8-cdad-5d77-a26a-b164f2561080.html

Interesting discussion on reasons for and reasonable-ness of pipeline opposition

Big Picture:

The Great Recession, not natural gas, the main factor in CO2 emissions drop

- Raw Story – 7/22/15

<http://www.rawstory.com/2015/07/the-great-recession-not-natural-gas-the-main-factor-in-co2-emissions-drop/>

Recession's contribution to emissions reduction is obvious, but the study (follow the link in the story) is quite informative and digestible. I recommend it if you have time

Cutler: Pipeline industry attempting to bypass important review procedures; what's the rush?

- Roanoke Times – 7/22/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/cutler-pipeline-industry-attempting-to-bypass-important-review-procedures-what/article_b90372b9-6d04-5105-841d-ecad85301c21.html

Gas pipeline bills threaten national parks

- The Hill – 7/16/15

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/248076-gas-pipeline-bills-threaten-national-parks>

Energy transport was not the reason for creating our National Parks

Renewable Energy: A Tale of Two Virginias

- Bacon's Rebellion – 7/22/15

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2015/07/renewable-energy-a-tale-of-two-virginias.html>

Which future will Virginia choose? Or will Dominion choose it for us?

Will natural gas pipelines crowd out renewables?

- Environmental Defense Fund – 7/16/15

<http://www.edf.org/blog/2015/07/16/will-natural-gas-pipelines-crowd-out-renewables>

More pipelines will likely increase demand for natural gas over the 40+ years of the pipelines' and connected power stations' lifetimes...it's not just about meeting *current* demand

Study: Utica Shale reserves larger than originally thought

- The Exponent Telegram – 7/15/15

http://www.theet.com/news/local/study-utica-shale-reserves-larger-than-originally-thought/article_ee8263ff-6841-55a2-89d0-c28eb98007ec.html

Uh Oh!