



ABRA Update #14 – February 4, 2015

March 7 ABRA Membership Meeting to Focus on “The Path Forward”

The membership-wide meeting of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance will be held on Saturday March 7, from 10 am to 3 pm at the Staunton Public Library in Staunton, VA. Doors will open at 9:30 am. The meeting, the first of its kind since ABRA was officially launched five months ago, will be an opportunity for the organization to assess the state and effectiveness of its activities in addressing the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and to develop new strategies for the future.

The morning sessions will feature two panel discussions: “The Issues and Objectives: What is Relevant?” and “The Strategies: What Works?” Each discussion will provide generous time for audience participation. The remainder of the meeting, including a luncheon period of work groups, will focus on improving strategies of member organizations and ABRA in general in confronting the ACP. A separate email on the March 7 meeting, including registration information, will be sent to ABRA members this week.

Augusta County BOS Hearing on ACP on February 4

The Augusta County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on tonight, February 4, “to gain input from residents and property owners prior to the Board of Supervisors providing comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the proposed pipeline route through the county.” The 7 pm session will be held in the Public Meeting Room of the Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona, VA. Dominion Resources has indicated it will make a presentation at the hearing. Further details are available at: <http://www.co.augusta.va.us/?page=12&recordid=16918&returnURL=%2findex.aspx>

Comments to Monongahela, Jefferson National Forests Are Due Next Week

February 13, Friday of next week, is the deadline for comments to the Monongahela National Forest on the application to survey for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and for comments to the Jefferson National Forest on the application to survey for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. ABRA member organizations are urged to file comments on both applications, stressing the importance of the Forest Service considering all of the applications to survey in conjunction with one another. This point was previously made in several of the comments filed with the George Washington National Forest last month by several ABRA members, including the Southern Environmental Law Center and the Appalachian Mountain Advocates. Copies of their comments and those of others are available on the ABRA website at http://abralliance.org/?page_id=8.

Information on the ACP filing with the Monongahela National Forest can be accessed at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/home/?cid=stelprd3824603>

Information on the Mountain Valley Pipeline submission and how to file comments on it is available at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gwj/home/?cid=stelprd3827827>

In the News . . .

Environmental and health impacts of proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline

– Clean Air Council, 1/7/15 (video)

<http://vimeo.com/118511841>

Kinder Morgan withdraws pipeline application due to market conditions

– Albuquerque Journal, 1/23/15

<http://www.abqjournal.com/530879/biz/biz-most-recent/kinder-morgan-withdraws-co2-pipeline-application.htm>

FERC Chairman Defends Natural Gas Infrastructure Expansion as a Climate Plus

- Natural Gas Sentinel, 1/27/15

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/101176-ferc-chairman-defends-natgas-infrastructure-expansion-as-a-climate-plus>

Systemic flaws in safety oversight of gas pipelines – Associated Press, 1/27/15

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_GAS_LINE_ACCIDENTS?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act – JD Supra, 1/27/15

<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/natural-gas-pipeline-permitting-reform-a-82365/>

Methane leaks from gas pipelines far exceed official estimates, Harvard study finds

– Inside Climate News, 1/28/15

<http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20150128/methane-leaks-gas-pipelines-far-exceed-official-estimates-harvard-study-find>

House passes bill aimed at expediting natural gas exports – Bakken.com, 1/28/15

<http://bakken.com/news/id/231305/house-passes-bill-aimed-expediting-natural-gas-exports/>

Pipeline companies weather downturn in prices of natural gas

– Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, 1/29/15

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/7659078-74/gas-pipeline-companies#axzz3Qh3yEAdN>

How fast track gas pipeline bill could affect West Virginians – WV NPR, 1/29/15

<http://wvpublic.org/post/congress-considers-bill-fast-track-gas-pipeline-projects-and-it-could-affect-west-virginians>

Dominion Seeks Rate Freeze – Charlottesville Newsplex, 1/29/15

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Dominion-Seeks-Rate-Freeze--290177011.html>

Dominion's strange ploy to avoid audits – Bacon's Rebellion, 1/29/15

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2015/01/dominions-strange-ploy-to-avoid-audits.html>

Five Nelson couples seek dismissal of pipeline survey lawsuits

– Nelson County Times, 1/29/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/five-nelson-couples-seek-dismissal-of-pipeline-survey-lawsuits/article_ce09892e-a7ce-11e4-97af-1f89d4405b19.html

Dominion offering \$1.2 million in environmental grants – Charlottesville Newsplex, 1/30/15

<http://www.newsplex.com/home/headlines/Dominion-Offering-12-Million-in-Environmental-Grants--290333091.html>

Panels supports less Dominion oversight – Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star, 1/30/15

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/va_md_dc/panels-supports-less-dominion-oversight/article_bee8e967-66cf-59fd-a954-d68543680888.html

Group plans to monitor proposed pipeline construction from above

– WHSV-TV (Harrisonburg), 1/30/15

<http://www.wHSV.com/home/headlines/Group-Plans-to-Monitor-Proposed-Pipeline-Construction-from-Above-290265221.html>

Open records push for pipeline projects dies in House of Delegates Roanoke Times, 1/30/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/general_assembly/open-records-push-for-pipeline-projects-dies-in-house-of/article_b19d7149-66e4-5366-a072-7c8dccb2c504.html

Building liquid natural gas export terminal in NC unlikely

– Charlotte News-Observer, 1/30/15

http://www.newsobserver.com/2015/01/30/4517506_report-building-liquid-natural.html?rh=1

Pipeline ruptures plague oil and gas industry – Manufacturing.net, 1/30/15

<http://www.manufacturing.net/news/2015/01/pipeline-ruptures-plague-oil-and-gas-industry>

How Gas Drilling is Affecting Parts of Appalachia – WV NPR, 1/30/15

<http://wvpublic.org/post/meet-wvas-groundhog-prophets-and-hear-how-gas-drilling-affecting-parts-appalachia>

SoCo can have access to pipeline – Tidewater News, 1/31/15

<http://www.tidewaternews.com/2015/01/31/soco-can-have-access-to-pipeline/>

A welder's case for the pipeline – Staunton News-Leader, 1/31/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/01/31/welders-case-pipeline/22658419/>

Bill forcing Dominion to comply with FOI is killed

– WINA-AM (Charottlesville), 1/31/15

<http://wina.com/news/064460-bill-forcing-dominion-to-comply-with-foi-gets-killed/#sthash.foe8Eo2z.dpuf>

Augusta County residents readying for pipeline public hearing

– News Virginian, 2/1/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/augusta-county-residents-readying-for-pipeline-public-hearing/article_ed918cao-a9be-11e4-adee-f764297615a9.html

Drilling, Pipeline Accidents Taking Toll – Wheeling News-Register, 2/1/15

<http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/623991/Drilling--Pipeline-Accidents-Tak---.html>

Dominion Resources acquires Carolina-Georgia pipelines – Akron Beacon-Journal, 2/2/15

<http://www.ohio.com/blogs/drilling/ohio-utica-shale-1.291290/dominion-resources-acquires-carolina-georgia-pipelines-1.563623>

Dominion Virginia Power buys the Virginia General Assembly, Repubs and Dems

– Daily Kos, 2/2/15

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2015/02/02/1361910/-Dominion-Virginia-Power-buys-the-Virginia-General-Assembly-Repubs-and-Dems#>

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a BIG Deal – Roanoke Times, 2/2/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/geller-and-shingles-thank-you-for-the-news-the-mountain/article_e3199c67-a3f8-53fa-b49a-85ff8b99468a.html

Pipelines remain big news – Bakken.com, 2/2/15

<http://bakken.com/news/id/231801/pipelines-remain-big-news/>

Buddhagraph Spaceship organizes protest against regional pipeline

– Collegiate Times (Blacksburg), 2/2/15

http://www.collegiatetimes.com/lifestyle/article_06f71574-ab3c-11e4-9518-5fa3da91c1e5.html

Williams, Williams Partners and Access Midstream Partners announce merger

– Rock Hill Herald (SC), 2/2/15

http://www.heraldonline.com/2015/02/02/6758524_williams-williams-partners-and.html?rh=1

Dominion bill advances, helped by shareholder Va. Lawmakers

– WAVY10 (Portsmouth, VA), 2/2/15

<http://wavy.com/2015/02/02/dominion-bill-advances-helped-by-shareholder-va-lawmakers/>

Mountain Valley Pipeline considers alternative routes – Roanoke Times, 2/2/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/giles_county/mountain-valley-pipeline-considers-alternative-routes/article_d2e79foc-63ce-546b-93b0-f924f65bod77.html

Regional pipeline 'benefits' that you can't count on – Roanoke Times, 2/3/15

<http://wvpublic.org/post/meet-wvas-groundhog-prophets-and-hear-how-gas-drilling-affecting-parts-appalachia>

Permitting, prices holding back new pipelines – Fuelfix.com, 2/3/15

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/02/03/permitting-prices-holding-back-new-pipelines/>

St. Clair County Rover pipeline construction scrapped

– Port Huron (MI) Times-Herald, 2/3/15

<http://www.thetimesherald.com/story/news/local/2015/02/03/st-clair-county-longer-rover-pipeline-construction-route/22787687/>

Obama proposes more pipeline safety money in new federal budget

– Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 2/3/15

<http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/latest-utilities/2015/02/03/Obama-proposes-more-pipeline-safety-money-in-new-federal-budget/stories/201502030168>

Va. Beach Sen. says he's sold Dominion shares – WAVY10 (Portsmouth, VA), 2/4/15

<http://wavy.com/2015/02/04/va-beach-sen-says-hes-sold-dominion-shares/>