



ABRA Update #35 – July, 1, 2015

Monongahela N.F. Extends Comment Period for Alternative ACP Route

The deadline for submitting scoping comments on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's proposed alternative route through the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) has been extended two weeks, from July 6 to July 20. ABRA had submitted on June 25 a letter to Supervisor Clyde Thompson requesting such an extension. A copy of the Supervisor's invitation for comments and the ABRA letter are posted on the ABRA website ([http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Letter to Clyde Thompson-MNF-20150625.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Letter_to_Clyde_Thompson-MNF-20150625.pdf)).

Soil Conservation District Calls for ACP to Submit E&S Plans

The Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District (TJSWCD) has called on the Virginia Department of Natural Resources to require the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to submit a "project specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plan" because of "significant and critical concerns with respect to potential erosion, sedimentation, and stormwater management due to the unique geology, topography, and sensitive landscape in Nelson County." Nelson County is included in the jurisdiction of the TJSWCD.

Virginia law and applicable regulations allow natural gas pipeline and utility companies to submit "annual standards and specifications" in lieu of site specific plans.

The TJSWCD wrote the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on December 5 asking the agency to require Dominion to satisfactorily show why the proposed route is the best route and how the company will address several issues and concerns, including storm water runoff, erosion and potential landslides.

In his June 24 letter to Deputy Secretaries Evan Feinman and Russ Baxter, TJSWCD Chairman Brian Wagner requested that:

1. "FERC and Dominion Resources will satisfactorily explain, prior to the issuance of permits, how the issues and concerns raised on page 2 of our letter of Dec. 5, 2014 will be addressed.
2. "DEQ will require project-specific Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Plans for the ACP project that meet all Virginia standards, and that these plans will be made available to the public.
3. "Localities will have the right to review plans, conduct inspections and enforce their local Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinances.
4. "DEQ will "assess an administrative charge to cover the costs of services rendered associated with its responsibilities pursuant to (the Virginia Stormwater Management Law)", to enable them to fully comply with Virginia laws and regulations.
- "5. Prior to construction, Dominion Resources officials and third-party inspectors will be required to meet with local officials to discuss the implementation of the project-specific Erosion and Sediment Control and Stormwater Management Plans and adaptive management plans."

Copies of Mr. Wagner's June 24 letter and the December 5 letter to FERC are available on the ABRA website at http://abralliance.org/?page_id=8.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dominion would police pipeline impact itself

- The News Leader – 6/25/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/06/25/dominion-police-atlantic-coast-pipeline-impact/29270827/>

State agencies ill-equipped to monitor construction and impact...Dominion plans to oversee itself

Questions remain in pipeline review process

- The News Virginian – 6/28/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/questions-remain-in-pipeline-review-process/article_bb9b9f00-1d00-11e5-932e-cb63c9443a08.html

Will the public be allowed "behind the curtain"?

Landowners plan strategy to fight proposed pipeline

- The Rocky Mount Telegram – 7/1/15

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/news/landowners-plot-strategy-fight-proposed-pipeline-2924091>

Not everybody in NC is cheering the ACP

Politics isn't all electioneering, Dominion's Farrell notes

- Daily Press – 6/30/15

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/shad-plank-blog/dp-virginia-politics-politics-isnt-all-electioneering-dominions-farrell-notes-20150630-post.html>

Green/Tea coalition an interesting and increasingly effective at slowing development

Coalition sees economic, industrial value of pipeline

- TidewaterNews.com – 7/1/15

<http://www.tidewaternews.com/2015/07/01/coalition-sees-economic-industrial-value-of-pipeline/>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Pipeline turnabout: Gas could be sent India

- Roanoke Times – 6/25/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/pipeline-partner-says-natural-gas-could-be-exported/article_27512cb7-f09a-56ea-8e3b-ca388a55df6d.html

In a shocking turn of events (!), gas may be sent overseas afterall

Leech: Are rural counties now considered expendable?

- Roanoke Times – 2/29/15

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/leech-are-rural-counties-now-considered-expendable/article_a4df1752-8a7d-50eb-bb44-64c886bb305b.html

Artists capture Cahas Mountain and other landscapes before pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 6/29/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/artists-capture-cahas-mountain-and-other-landscapes-before-pipeline/article_dd0a77c6-8854-5f5e-9af4-98d4c52f6509.html

Better capture it before it's gone

Big Picture:

Supreme Court rules against EPA regulations aimed at tighter rules for power plants

- Fredericksburg.com – 6/30/15

http://www.fredericksburg.com/news/environment/supreme-court-rules-against-epa-regulations-aimed-at-tighter-rules/article_bae8d178-e9d3-5862-8c92-8e4646be0fe8.html
EPA Rule down, but not out

Natural gas opposition has shifted to transportation, speakers say

- PennEnergy – 6/25/15

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/ogj/2015/06/natural-gas-opposition-has-shifted-to-transportation-speakers-say.html>

Supply constraints and opposition blamed for NE high prices...industry plans to expand for decades

Natural Gas Exports Ramping Sooner Than Expected

- NJ Spotlight – 6/12/15

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/3289925-natural-gas-exports-ramping-sooner-than-expected>

Exports to Canada and Mexico increasing quickly

Big Oil and Gas Emissions out West – New Report Sizes Up Methane Problem on Federal and Tribal Lands

- Environmental Defense Fund – 6/23/15

<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2015/06/23/big-oil-and-gas-emissions-out-west-new-report-sizes-methane-problem-on-federal-and-tribal-lands/>

Big impacts...big economic losses...Big Problem!

Millions of gallons would be pumped from 3 Lancaster County streams to test Atlantic Sunrise pipeline

- LancasterOnline – 6/30/15

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/millions-of-gallons-would-be-pumped-from-lancaster-county-streams/article_4f2a0264-1f3d-11e5-8c7a-cb91ea161c9b.html

Local streams at risk from hydrostatic testing...pipeline builders say 'No problem'