



ABRA Update #37 – July, 16, 2015

FERC Responds To ACP Resource Reports

In a sometimes sharply-worded communication, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission transmitted July 14 comments to Dominion Transmission, Inc. in response to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's draft Resource Reports 1 through 10. The 37 page letter has been posted on the ABRA website at [http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC Comments ACP RR 1-10 7-14-15.pdf](http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/FERC_Comments_ACP_RR_1-10_7-14-15.pdf).

FERC's comments include 220 specific comments or requests to the ACP, including an instruction that "within 45 days of the issuance of these comments (or at least 45 days prior to filing an application), file with the Secretary of the Commission draft versions of the Karst Monitoring and Mitigation Plan; Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures Plan; Winter Construction Plan; Invasive Plant Species Management Plan; and Blasting Plan."

Here are some highlights from the FERC comments:

- Provide to the extent known the possible uses of ACP's end-users/customers for the gas capacity created. If possible, break down (by delivery point) the current known use (e.g., electric generation, residential use/consumption, local distribution, industrial/manufacturing, manufacturing precursors).
- Confirm whether worker camps would be utilized for the project. If anticipated, identify the locations and size of the camps, and analyze the potential effects the camps would have on soils, wetlands, waterbodies, wildlife, vegetation, cultural resources, land uses, traffic, and public services.
- Include a discussion of the details of typical methods and requirements of backfill on slopes exceeding 35 percent such as fill lift thickness, methods of compaction and testing of horizontal fill layers, and subsurface drainage installation in seepage areas.
- For each spring identified within 150 feet of the planned workspaces, indicate the gradient and spatial relationship of its recharge area to the pipeline corridor.
- Assess the ability of public services to respond to emergency situations along remote portions of the project and the additional cumulative impacts these situations would pose on public services and the community. Identify measures or assistance that could be provided to alleviate any cumulative impact on public services, as applicable.
- The Virginia Cave Board commented that discharge of hydrostatic test water should be prohibited in the Jackson River Valley. Identify if hydrostatic test water would be discharge within this river basin, and if discharge would occur, describe how impacts on karst, caves, and groundwater features would be avoided or minimized.

In other words, Dominion/ACP has been sent back to its room to redo its homework.

EnergySure Spokesman Calls For Highland to “Take One for The Team”

Last week Scott Bazzarre, the electrical contractor from Charlottesville who was featured recently on television explaining the new EnergySure coalition, wrote a letter to the editor of *The Recorder*, published in the July 9 edition, asking Highland County residents to "take one for the team" because “central West Virginia and central Virginia need your help. We will all benefit in the long run, including Highland. Progress eventually is inevitable. We all know that.” His letter also cited the jobs that would be created and tax revenues that would result to benefit affected counties.

Lewis Freeman, ABRA Chair, responded with a letter to *The Recorder* published in the July 16 issue, noting that “the debate over whether and where the Atlantic Coast Pipeline should be built is ultimately about values. Assured energy supplies for businesses and home is an important value. But there are costs associated with obtaining needed energy, costs that will adversely affect other values: the ecology and lives of the communities and citizens. Those are values just as important as the need for energy. Perhaps more so.”

Both letters have been posted on the ABRA website at [http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/EnergySure letter-Scott Bazzarre-Lewis Freeman response- Recorder 7-9 7-16-2015.pdf](http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/EnergySure%20letter-Scott%20Bazzarre-Lewis%20Freeman%20response-Recorder%207-9%207-16-2015.pdf).

Reminder: July 20 Is Comment Deadline On Alternative ACP Route Through MNF

The deadline for submitting scoping comments on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline’s proposed alternative route through the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) is Monday, 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%20to%20Clyde%20Thompson-MNF-20150625.pdf)).

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

New pipeline route bypasses Wingina historic district

- NelsonCountyTimes.com – 7/15/15
http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/pipeline/new-pipeline-route-bypasses-wingina-historic-district/article_dfoafc86-2b3a-11e5-8f78-f7990e952ce3.html
 A little bit of good news

Opponents' report casts doubt on pipeline benefits

- News Leader – 7/8/15
<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2015/07/08/new-report-casts-doubt-on-pipeline-benefits/29856835/>
 Synapse Report questions ACP’s purported benefits

Opposing pipeline studies raise questions

- The News Virginian – 7/12/15
http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/opposing-pipeline-studies-raise-questions/article_b03c0952-285d-11e5-bab5-cfa095f1f085.html

New Study Questions Economic Impact of Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- WINA News Radio – 7/8/15
<https://wina.com/podcasts/new-study-questions-economic-impact-of-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>
 Lew’s interview on the ACP and Synapse Report

Overblown: Report slams economic claims of Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Fierce Energy – 7/13/15
<http://www.fierceenergy.com/story/overblown-report-slams-economic-claims-atlantic-coast-pipeline/2015-07-13>

Pipeline threatens plans for \$35 million Nellysford resort

- NelsonCountyTimes.com – 7/8/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/pipeline-threatens-plans-for-million-nellysford-resort/article_3527f4aa-259d-11e5-a135-775e0a418125.html

Business would support 50-100 jobs and pay non-depreciating taxes

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Rocky Mount Town Council takes a stand against Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 7/13/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/rocky-mount-town-council-takes-a-stand-against-mountain-valley/article_2848c5d2-b446-5012-be72-43038c61a93f.html

Roanoke County frustrated by lack of communication about pipeline route changes

- Roanoke Times – 7/14/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke_county/roanoke-county-frustrated-by-lack-of-communication-about-pipeline-route/article_7d61736b-df09-56d0-8a1d-9f3f2da3624d.html

Anti-pipeline groups seek ‘scoping’ process delay

- The Recorder – 7/9/15

<http://www.recorder.com/home/17671584-95/anti-pipeline-groups-seek-scoping-process-delay>

Other groups pursuing similar strategy to ours...

Big Picture:

Democrats And Republicans Are Actually Agreeing On An Environmental Regulation

- Climate Progress – 7/15/15

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/07/15/3680769/bipartisan-pipeline-safety/>

Seems they agree on the need to point fingers...but at least it appears to be in a reasonable direction

Greater good shouldn't require surrender of individual freedom

- TidewaterNews.com – 7/15/15

<http://www.tidewaternews.com/2015/07/15/greater-good-shouldnt-require-surrender-of-individual-freedom/>

Discussion of property rights in relation to ACP