



## ***ABRA Update #43 – August 25, 2015***

### **Sen. Kaine Expresses Concerns About ACP**

U.S. Senate Tim Kaine (D-VA) wrote FERC Chairman Norman Bay and the other Commissioners August 24 to express several concerns about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, both the agency's process in considering it and various elements about the project. The Senator's letter follows a similar communication he sent to FERC last month about the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. The letter reflects a number of issues raised by ABRA members in a meeting with the Senator on May 28 in Richmond. Among points in the letter were:

- “The FERC process has a built-in imbalance . . . It is crucial that no effort be spared to disseminate project information as widely as possible, to make sure that citizen questions are answered quickly and substantively.”
- “Members of the Augusta County Board of Supervisors and Augusta County Service Authority met with the applicants and provided the company with a list of questions, which these members say have not been answered to date.”
- “*The Recorder*, the local newspaper of Bath and Highland Counties, submitted questions to the applicants on August 5, 2014, and indicates that it has yet to receive a response.”
- “Through the potential impacts on both businesses and individuals, many residents feel that this region is bearing all the environmental risks and potential economic applicants and the recipients of this gas demand elsewhere are receiving all the benefits.”
- “In mountainous areas of the route, citizens are asking about erosion mitigation and evaluation routes near schools. One citizen pointed out that the Commonwealth's hazardous materials evacuation plan recommends avoiding karst areas.”
- “One of the most frequent concerns Virginians have shared with me is the degree to which FERC analyzes individual projects within the larger regional context – in other words, if the new capacity brought online by the ACP necessitates a certain level of impact, whether four new projects necessitates four times the impact. It is important that the ACP be measured side-by-side with the impact of multiple new pipeline rights-of-way in this rural, largely agricultural and forested region.”
- “I have encouraged the applicants for the ACP and for other pipeline projects to explore co-location of right-of-way to the greatest extent possible . . . it appears at this stage that the ACP's degree of co-location with existing rights-of-way – in the range of 5-10% if its mileage – is substantially lower than for other similar pipelines.”

Sen. Kaine's letter is available at [http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Kaine\\_letter\\_to\\_FERC\\_on\\_ACP\\_8-24-15.pdf](http://abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Kaine_letter_to_FERC_on_ACP_8-24-15.pdf).

## **ACP Partner Bought By Southern Company**

AGL Resources, a 5% partner in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, has agreed to be purchased by The Southern Company, which serves over 4 million customers in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. AGL has facilities in Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia, where it owns Virginia Natural Gas, serving much of the Tidewater area of the state. Both firms are headquartered in Atlanta. The merger would create the 2nd largest utility company, by customer count, in the country. More details on the merger are at:

[http://www.streetinsider.com/Corporate+News/Southern+Co.+to+Acquire+AGL+Resources+\(GAS\)+in+~\\$12B+Deal/10837265.html](http://www.streetinsider.com/Corporate+News/Southern+Co.+to+Acquire+AGL+Resources+(GAS)+in+~$12B+Deal/10837265.html).

### ***In the News:***

## **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

### **Delay in FERC Timeline for Atlantic Coast Pipeline Sought by BLM**

- Natural Gas Intelligence: Shale Daily – 8/19/15

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/103380-delay-in-ferc-timeline-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline-sought-by-blm>

Numerous deficiencies in Dominion's application highlighted by BLM

### **New variations on pipeline route swing closer to Yogaville**

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 8/21/15

[http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article\\_87b4812b-4f3b-524e-8bd7-7ddoff899609.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_87b4812b-4f3b-524e-8bd7-7ddoff899609.html)

### **Nelson Co. to Take Up Dominion Questions for Proposed Pipeline**

- NBC29.com – 8/21/15

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/29854540/nelson-co-to-take-up-dominion-questions-for-proposed-pipeline>

Nelson County Supervisors decide to put their concerns in writing

## **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

### **Mountain Valley Pipeline may use controversial surveying law, judge rules**

- Roanoke Times – 8/24/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/giles\\_county/judge-s-ruling-allows-pipeline-company-to-use-controversial-state/article\\_24438b7f-9d5e-59c2-b02f-66b333ca5fdb.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/giles_county/judge-s-ruling-allows-pipeline-company-to-use-controversial-state/article_24438b7f-9d5e-59c2-b02f-66b333ca5fdb.html)

### **Mountain Valley Pipeline begins buying easements for proposed route in W.Va.**

- Roanoke Times – 8/20/15

[http://www.roanoke.com/news/mvp-begins-buying-easements-for-proposed-pipeline-in-w-va/article\\_7738a513-ca37-523e-9139-c643daf4077.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/mvp-begins-buying-easements-for-proposed-pipeline-in-w-va/article_7738a513-ca37-523e-9139-c643daf4077.html)

### **Pipeline resolution makes sense**

- The Franklin News-Post – 8/21/15

[http://www.thefranklinnews.com/editorials/pipeline-resolution-makes-sense/article\\_22503f9c-4760-11e5-a996-d7f0c9c1653d.html](http://www.thefranklinnews.com/editorials/pipeline-resolution-makes-sense/article_22503f9c-4760-11e5-a996-d7f0c9c1653d.html)

## **Big Picture:**

### **Committee Recommends State Study Large-Scale Gas Pipelines Effects**

- Lansing Star – 8/21/15

<http://www.lansingstar.com/news-page/11946-committee-recommends-state-study-large-scale-gas-pipelines-effects>

AMA's recommendation supported, moratoria on new water and air permits for NG infrastructure not

**Study says a new pipeline is not necessary, lays out alternatives**

- The Recorder – 8/20/15

<http://www.recorder.com/home/18233281-95/study-says-a-new-pipeline-is-not-necessary-lays-out-alternatives>

Written by a competitor, but it seems a reasonable assessment

**Dominion Power turning customers' bills into politically connected donations**

- PilotOnline.com – 8/22/15

<http://hamptonroads.com/2015/08/dominion-power-turning-customers-bills-politically-connected-donations>

Yet another way that Dominion buys Virginia every day...and we are forced to pay for it!