October 26th, 2015

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

FERC: Please conduct a PEIS for Virginia and West Virginia Pipelines

Dear Chairman Bay and Secretary Bose:

The diverse array of organizations listed below urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to conduct a single, comprehensive regional review of all four interstate natural gas pipeline projects currently proposed for the central Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountain region of Virginia and West Virginia—the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, the Appalachian Connector Pipeline, and the WB Express Project. This Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) must be a single, comprehensive regional review of the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of pipeline development in this region.

Our region is facing an unprecedented level of natural gas infrastructure development. Although there are currently 3,000 miles of natural gas lines in Virginia alone, there are almost no 42-inch lines in the state. However, there are now three such lines, each capable of carrying up to two billion cubic feet a day, being proposed in close proximity to one another, and a fourth existing 36-inch line that is in the planning stages for an upgrade to add additional capacity, each of which requires at least one new compressor station.

FERC should proceed, not with a separate EIS for each proposed pipeline, but with a PEIS that considers all of the cumulative impacts that will arise from these four proposed projects and evaluate all reasonable, less damaging alternatives.

Sincerely,
350 Central Virginia
Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Advocates
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Appalachian Voices
Augusta County Alliance
Blue Ridge Land Conservancy
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition
Environment Virginia
Friends of Augusta
Friends of Buckingham
Friends of Nelson
Friends of the GW Forest Against Fracking
Friends of Wintergreen, Inc.
Preserve Franklin
Preserve Giles County
Preserve Greenbrier County
Preserve Monroe
Preserve Montgomery County
Roanoke Appalachian Trail Club
Roanoke Group, Sierra Club
Roanoke Valley Cool Cities Coalition
Satchidananda Ashram - Yogaville
Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter
Southern Environmental Law Center
Summers County Residents Against the Pipeline
Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
Virginia Organizing
Virginia Student Environmental Coalition
Wild Virginia