



ABRA Update #47 – September 24, 2015

Now That ACP Has Filed, What Happens Next?

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline's September 18 filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has now set in motion formal evaluation of the project, including the conducting of an Environmental Impact Statement and consideration of the market need for the pipeline. That process can be expected to last a year, perhaps longer. The new docket number for the project is **CP15-554**. Important sources of information on the process and how individuals and organizations can be involved are available at the following FERC website pages:

- Process for considering APC's application:
<http://www.ferc.gov/resources/processes/flow/gas-2.asp>
- Environmental Impact Statement guidance manual
<https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/erpman.pdf>
- Citizens guide, including how to become an intervenor (page 6 & 7)
<http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/citz-guide-gas.pdf>

For those organizations and individuals considering filing for intervenor status, it must be done within 21 days from the publication of the notice in the Federal Register. As of 9/25/15, the notice of ACP's filing has not been published.

One question that has recently been raised by several people concerns whether comments filed with FERC during the pre-filing period need to be refiled. Kevin Bowman, FERC's environmental project manager for the project, e-mailed ABRA Steering Committee member Charlotte Rae that previously filed comments do not need to be re-filed:

"All comments filed under BOTH the PF15-5 and PF15-6 are considered part of the complete record for the SHP and ACP projects. Any and all comments filed during pre-filing do NOT need to be filed again under the CP15-554 or CP15-555 dockets. Please feel free to share this information with anyone who has the same question as you do."

ABRA's Steering Committee conferred on 9/24/15 and has begun to craft strategies to respond to last week's ACP filing. One program that is being launched is discussed below.

ABRA to Conduct In-Depth Review of ACP Resource Reports, Help Needed

ABRA's Steering Committee has decided to conduct a thorough review of the Resource Reports that were included with the September 18 application submitted to FERC. An initial examination of the Resource Reports reveals a good deal of informational shortcomings. ABRA wishes to identify the specific inadequacies and missing elements of the Resource Report filings. We are assembling a team of people to assume review assignments. Charlotte Rae, a Steering Committee member, will oversee the review project, assisted by Dan Shaffer, ABRA Communications Coordinator.

Persons associated with ABRA member organizations can help by taking on a review assignment, as follows:

1. Identify a Resource Report you wish to review. Links to the Resource Reports are available at <https://www.dom.com/corporate/what-we-do/atlantic-coast-pipeline/ferc-filings-and-information> under the heading "FERC Application - Sept. 2015" (located half-way down the page). Please list a first, second and third choice so that all resource reports are covered.
2. Email by Monday, September 28 your willingness to be a reviewer and your choices for which Resource Reports you wish to review to Dan Shaffer at dshaffer@abralliance.org.
3. You will receive by September 30 your assigned Resource Report and guidance on the criteria to be used to review the assigned report. Your report will be due by October 6.

If you have questions, please contact Charlotte Rae at the.creac1@gmail.com.

Reminder: October 24 ABRA Meeting

The October 24 ABRA membership meeting in the Staunton, VA area has taken on added importance given last week's filing by the ACP of its application with FERC. Information on the meeting objectives, agenda and registration will appear in next week's ABRA Update.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

What's Worth Protecting?

- The Recorder – 9/24/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Whats_Worth_Protecting-Recorder_9-24-15.pdf

Editorial – Right on Target

USFS: Pipeline Imperils Habitat

- The Recorder – 9/24/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Pipeline_Imperils_Habitat-Recorder_9-24-15.pdf

Sensitive species in constrained habitat faces serious threat from pipeline project

Pipeline company files formal application with FERC

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 9/18/15

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_6c39d6db-d6d2-59cf-8381-6b50e3bec434.html

Overview of situation at filing date

Dominion says no 'easy fixes' remain to transport natural gas

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 9/19/15

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_ee0c1b7c-1cb2-5075-bee3-b7e0bf94537e.html

New pipelines only effective method of transporting new supplies

Decisions coming up for Atlantic Coast Pipeline opponents

- The Daily Progress – 9/23/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/decisions-coming-up-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline-opponents/article_6d501f14-61b2-11e5-a26a-57ad662d394a.html

Groups have limited time to determine their approach

Anti-Pipeline Groups Prepare to Fight Dominion's Applications

- NBC29.com – 9/23/15

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/30099791/anti-pipeline-groups-prepare-to-fight-dominions-applications>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Franklin County landowners sued by Mountain Valley Pipeline contemplate options

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 9/22/15

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_f52402cf-fd5d-5ffb-8015-17221f9bdf76.html

Roanoke County discusses pipeline oversight, expanding Explore Park

- Roanoke Times – 9/22/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke_county/roanoke-county-urges-oversight-of-pipeline-construction-might-purchase-more/article_4e59e69c-806c-5910-82a4-3fc77ee4c6cb.html

County to petition Governor to adequately staff DEQ to provide construction oversight

Big Picture:

United States: 5 Myths About Building Natural Gas Pipelines

- Mondaq – 9/21/15

<http://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/x/428362/Utilities/5+Myths+About+Building+Natural+Gas+Pipelines>

Addresses widely accepted claims about the approval process

Atlantic Coast Pipeline FERC filing comes as drillers await new transmission out of region

- The Exponent Telegram – 9/20/15

[HTTP://WWW.THEET.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/ATLANTIC-COAST-PIPELINE-FERC-FILING-COMES-AS-DRILLERS-AWAIT-NEW/ARTICLE_A9052AA4-CAA2-5652-AF68-A364EECB9CC1.HTML](http://www.theet.com/news/local/atlantic-coast-pipeline-ferc-filing-comes-as-drillers-await-new/article_A9052AA4-CAA2-5652-AF68-A364EECB9CC1.HTML)

More pipelines needed...so drillers can drill more!

Natural-Gas Prices Decrease Amid Call for More Pipelines and Infrastructure

- ecoRI News – 9/23/15

<http://www.ecori.org/renewable-energy/2015/9/23/natural-gas-prices-decrease-as-call-for-more-projects-increases>

Gas companies continue to push for more pipelines in NE amid signs they may not be necessary

Going beyond opposition to Keystone XL, Clinton outlines broader energy agenda

- Washington Post – 9/23/2015

[HTTP://WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/NEWS/ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT/WP/2015/09/23/GOING-BEYOND-OPPOSITION-TO-KEYSTONE-XL-CLINTON-OUTLINES-BROADER-ENERGY-AGENDA/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/09/23/going-beyond-opposition-to-keystone-xl-clinton-outlines-broader-energy-agenda/)

Clinton seems to have a broader strategy than “drill, Baby, drill”. Let’s hope so.