



## ***ABRA Update #49 – October 6, 2015***

### **ACP Filing Is Acknowledged By FERC**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission published on October 2 a Notice of Application by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, an action that formally initiates the 21-day period during which interested parties may file for intervenor status in the proceeding. The deadline for filing for that status is 5 P.M., October 23. Details about filing for intervenor status and other ways of commenting to FERC are described in the Notice, available on the ABRA website at: [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FERC\\_Acceptance\\_of\\_ACP\\_application\\_10-2-15.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FERC_Acceptance_of_ACP_application_10-2-15.pdf).

Information in an earlier Update issue stated that the deadline for intervenor status was 21 days after the publication of the Notice of Application in the Federal Register, based on advice provided on the FERC website. That information is incorrect and the discrepancy has been pointed out to FERC.

### **ABRA Meeting Will Lead To Important Decisions – Register Now!**

The October 24 ABRA-wide meeting will focus on developing strategies and programs to pursue over the next year regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline project, now that its formal review by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has commenced. Topics will include legal, legislative, communications and regulatory compliance and associated research. The meeting will be held at the Augusta County Government Center, located 10 minutes north of Staunton, VA in Verona, VA. We will begin at 10 am and conclude by 2:30 pm.

Each member organization may register up to 3 persons. A complete agenda will be sent out next week. To register for the meeting, please email the name(s) of each registrant, their associated organization, and the email address and phone number for each person to Dan Shaffer at [dshaffer@abralliance.org](mailto:dshaffer@abralliance.org) by Wednesday, October 21.

### **FERC Responds To Senator Kaine**

Norman C. Bay, Chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, responded on September 30 to the August 24 letter written to him by U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, in which the Senator raised several concerns and questions about the substance and process of the agency's consideration of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline ([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)). Chairman Bay acknowledged problems with the scoping meeting process and the many errors in the transcripts of those meetings. He said staff has established new procedures "to ensure that sign-up times, speaking procedures, and related matters are clearly detailed in our public scoping notices." He also said that transcript errors were being addressed and corrected versions of the scoping meeting transcripts would be posted on the docket once staff is satisfied with their accuracy.

He went on to say that "Commission staff will independently analyze the environmental concerns that have been raised by landowners, interested parties, governmental and resource agencies, including construction within karst terrain and

steep slopes, construction across conservation easements and waterbodies, co-location with other utilities, public safety, and impacts on endangered species. Staff's review will also include an analysis of the cumulative impacts from ACP's project, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and the WB Express Pipeline, as well as any available information on the Appalachian Connector Project, which has not yet begun the review process at the Commission."

A copy of Chairman Bay's letter is posted on the ABRA website at:  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FERC\\_Bay\\_Response\\_to\\_Kaine\\_Letter\\_20150930.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FERC_Bay_Response_to_Kaine_Letter_20150930.pdf).

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

### **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

#### **Federal judge upholds state law allowing surveys of private property for gas pipeline**

- The Daily Progress – 10/1/15

[HTTP://WWW.DAILYPROGRESS.COM/NEWS/STATE/FEDERAL-JUDGE-UPHOLDS-LAWSTATE-ALLOWING-SURVEYS-OF-PRIVATE-PROPERTY-FOR/ARTICLE\\_A56106D0-6864-11E5-9D3F-0F4CA8C187E3.HTML](http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/state/federal-judge-upholds-lawstate-allowing-surveys-of-private-property-for/article_A56106D0-6864-11E5-9D3F-0F4CA8C187E3.HTML)

"...a landowner has no constitutionally protected property right to exclude an authorized utility from entering his property for survey purposes."

**Read the Decision [HERE](#)**

#### **Dominion holds first advisory group meeting**

- The Farmville Herald – 10/1/15

[HTTP://WWW.FARMVILLEHERALD.COM/2015/10/DOMINION-HOLDS-FIRST-ADVISORY-GROUP-MEETING/](http://www.farmvilleherald.com/2015/10/DOMINION-HOLDS-FIRST-ADVISORY-GROUP-MEETING/)

First of three meetings on the proposed Compressor Station in Buckingham County convened

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

#### **Our view: Don't vote for candidates based on their pipeline positions**

- Roanoke Times – 10/6/15

[HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/OPINION/EDITORIALS/OUR-VIEW-DON-T-VOTE-FOR-CANDIDATES-BASED-ON-THEIR/ARTICLE\\_CA94E7BC-B50A-532C-A043-2A28AEF98572.HTML](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/our-view-don-t-vote-for-candidates-based-on-their/article_CA94E7BC-B50A-532C-A043-2A28AEF98572.HTML)

Their votes don't matter on the pipeline...so make yours count on other issues (paraphrased from story)

#### **Mountain Valley Pipeline's economic benefits study flawed, opponents say**

- Roanoke Times – 10/6/15

[HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/BUSINESS/NEWS/MOUNTAIN-VALLEY-PIPELINE-S-ECONOMIC-BENEFITS-STUDY-FLAWED-OPPONENTS-SAY/ARTICLE\\_84D259B3-5898-560A-9977-EAAA0F33F2A0.HTML](http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/mountain-valley-pipeline-s-economic-benefits-study-flawed-opponents-say/article_84D259B3-5898-560A-9977-EAAA0F33F2A0.HTML)

"A study funded by pipeline foes would be expected to yield criticism of FTI's analysis..." And by that reasoning, wouldn't a study funded by the pipeline would be expected to be favorable?

#### **Foster: Ship natural gas by rail**

- Roanoke Times – 10/3/15

[HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/OPINION/COMMENTARY/FOSTER-SHIP-NATURAL-GAS-BY-RAIL/ARTICLE\\_47BCED28-60BA-58E6-8ED1-0CD7265C776B.HTML](http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/foster-ship-natural-gas-by-rail/article_47BCED28-60BA-58E6-8ED1-0CD7265C776B.HTML)

A flexible solution, but of questionable safety

## **U.S. Forest Service approves permit for Mountain Valley Pipeline surveying**

- Roanoke Times – 10/2/15

[http://m.roanoke.com/news/virginia/u-s-forest-service-approves-permit-for-mountain-valley-pipeline/article\\_cb6f6baf-5088-5cfb-8063-a09ea0326735.html?mode=jqm](http://m.roanoke.com/news/virginia/u-s-forest-service-approves-permit-for-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_cb6f6baf-5088-5cfb-8063-a09ea0326735.html?mode=jqm)

## **Mountain Valley Pipeline to Provide Natural Gas Service to Virginia Communities through Partnership with Roanoke Gas**

- MarketWatch – 10/1/15

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/mountain-valley-pipeline-to-provide-natural-gas-service-to-virginia-communities-through-partnership-with-roanoke-gas-2015-10-01>

Roanoke communities to have access to MVP gas

## **Big Picture:**

### **Federal Clean Power Plan rules spark debate across Va.**

- Roanoke Times – 10/5/15

[HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/BUSINESS/NEWS/FEDERAL-CLEAN-POWER-PLAN-RULES-PROMPT-DEBATE-ACROSS-VA/ARTICLE\\_B893687B-80CD-55F2-937C-8B6093206CDA.HTML](HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/BUSINESS/NEWS/FEDERAL-CLEAN-POWER-PLAN-RULES-PROMPT-DEBATE-ACROSS-VA/ARTICLE_B893687B-80CD-55F2-937C-8B6093206CDA.HTML)

All parties see what they want to see in the CPP

### **Solar and Wind Just Passed Another Big Turning Point**

- Bloomberg – 10/6/2015

<HTTP://WWW.BLOOMBERG.COM/NEWS/ARTICLES/2015-10-06/SOLAR-WIND-REACH-A-BIG-RENEWABLES-TURNING-POINT-BNEF>

“It has never made less sense to build fossil fuel power plants”

### **Feds want tougher rules for pipelines after series of spills**

- Washington Times – 10/1/15

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/oct/1/apnewsbreak-feds-want-tougher-rules-for-oil-pipeli/?page=all>

\$Billions in future cleanup costs (and environmental damage) can be avoided

### **What is NED and what is to come?**

- Monadnock Ledger-Transcript – 10/5/15

<http://www.ledgertranscript.com/news/townbytown/temple/18706563-95/story.html>

Good overview of another major proposed project and related issues. So many proposed pipelines!