



ABRA Update #57 – December 2, 2015

Pipeline Monitoring Program Launched

Trout Unlimited (TU) initiated its Pipeline Monitoring Program with a meeting and training session in Staunton on November 14, with approximately 30 people from Augusta and Highland Counties in attendance. The program extends an existing TU stream monitoring program focused on the impact of shale gas drilling in the central Appalachian region. A number of ABRA member groups are working with TU in the pipeline monitoring program.

Through participation in the pipeline monitoring program, citizens who value cold, clean water can assist state and federal agencies in protecting these resources through stream monitoring and field surveillance. Volunteers will complete routine stream monitoring and inspections of stream conditions, report problems to appropriate agencies and upload data to TU's online data portal. The monitoring effort is designed to establish a baseline of watershed health in advance of pipeline construction activities, promote early detection and reporting of problems that may develop during construction and evaluate long term impacts.

Participants in the initial training session have selected streams in Augusta and Nelson for monitoring on a monthly basis. [A follow-up meeting for Highland County is scheduled for Sunday, December 13, at 2:00 pm in the Highland County Public Library in Monterey.](#) See [meeting notice](#).

Additional training sessions are planned in order to include streams in West Virginia and more streams in Virginia.

For more information about the program and upcoming workshops, see [Volunteer Monitoring Program](#) and contact Jake Lemon, TU Eastern Shale Gas Monitoring Coordinator, jlemon@tu.org.

Nelson County Helps Broaden Support For ABRA Position on ACP

Friends of Nelson County (FoNC), an ABRA charter-member, has launched an effort within the county to recruit businesses and individuals to endorse ABRA's policy position on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. ABRA had asked coalition members to make such an effort in their respective communities. To date, FoNC has recruited 21 endorsements and hopes to garner more. The ABRA policy is at <http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ABRA-policy-position-on-the-Atlantic-Coast-Pipeline-6-29-15.pdf>. We encourage other ABRA member organizations to make emulate the FoNC initiative. Those wishing to know more should contact Ernie Reed (lec@wildvirginia.org).

YES Urges ABAA Members To Sign On To Climate Change Letter

ABRA member Yogaville Environmental Solutions (YES) is asking that interested ABRA members sign on to a letter to delegates at the climate change conference in Paris, calling on them to "reject hydraulic fracturing (fracking) and the use of acidization for oil and natural gas production and all of the related infrastructure. Instead you must take

action to move aggressively to a 100% renewable energy future, which is necessary for remediating global warming and ensuring climate stability.” Those wishing to sign-on to the letter should visit <http://www.globalfrackdown.org/organizational-sign-on-letter/>.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pyles wants study of landowner wells impacted by pipeline route

- The News Virginian – 11/24/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/pyles-wants-study-of-landowner-wells-impacted-by-pipeline-route/article_8fe85bb2-9313-11e5-81cd-a71fd90c8672.html

Wells may be affected at distances greater than 150 feet

Jaye: International agreement pushes Virginia to move beyond fossil fuels

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 11/29/15

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_9ed7cab7-c4cf-577e-99e5-210826260530.html

The state of Virginia, if ranked as a country, would rank 39th in the world for carbon emissions!

Other View: Atlantic Coast Pipeline good for Northampton County

- The Daily Herald – 11/29/15

http://www.rrdailyherald.com/opinion/other-view-atlantic-coast-pipeline-good-for-northampton-county/article_4b68431a-9635-11e5-845b-f3940911be11.html

Northampton County, NC Board of Commissioners in favor of the pipeline

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Environmental groups in two states file legal protest of proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Augusta Free Press – 12/1/2014

<http://augustafreepress.com/environmental-groups-in-two-states-file-legal-protest-of-proposed-mountain-valley-pipeline/>

Economic study questions pipeline impact on regional revenues

- The Register-Herald – 11/30/15

http://www.register-herald.com/news/economic-study-questions-pipeline-impact-on-regional-revenues/article_21775f99-9894-50a6-8d24-338b9a67677d.html

Additional questions of pipeline companies' accounting and economic forecasts

Big Picture:

Groups Urge FERC to Consolidate Review of Five NatGas Pipelines

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 11/30/15

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/104503-groups-urge-ferc-to-consolidate-review-of-five-natgas-pipelines>

Similar to our requests...this is in New England. Trouble accessing?...clean out your cookies!

Sanders aligns against proposed natural gas pipeline

- The Keen Sentinel – 11/30/15

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/sanders-aligns-against-proposed-natural-gas-pipeline/article_ef0108e1-e934-58a7-9105-9e714fec47ea.html

Sanders opposed to Northeast Energy Direct pipeline...links to climate change

Richardson/My Turn: Unpersuasive on pipeline

- The Recorder (Mass.) 11/29/15

<http://www.recorder.com/home/19723296-95/richardsonmy-turn-unpersuasive-on-pipeline>

I think you'll all appreciate this one...

As US rushes to build gas lines, failure rate of new pipes has spiked

- SNL – 9/9/15

<https://www.snl.com/InteractiveX/Article.aspx?cdid=A-33791090-11060>

White House threatens to veto House energy bill

- Washington Examiner – 11/30/15

http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/white-house-threatens-to-veto-house-energy-bill/article/2577324?custom_click=rss

Bill would “streamline” FERC pipeline approval process, alter market regulation, hurt efficiency programs

Feds block oil companies from passing new pipeline taxes to state, independents

- Alaska Dispatch News – 11/30/15

<http://www.adn.com/article/20151130/feds-block-oil-companies-passing-new-pipeline-taxes-state-independents>

FERC blocks increased fees to recover costs from poorly managed upgrades, poorly estimated taxes