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Statement of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance on the newly announced route change for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Contact: Lewis Freeman, Chair/Executive Director, Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance
540-468-2769 or 703-298-8107 (c) lewfreeman@gmail.com

The new alternative route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, announced this morning by Dominion Transmission, avoids Cheat and Shenandoah Mountains but compounds the ecological harm that would ensue. By directing the pipeline further south in Pocahontas County, WV, into northern Bath County, VA and then north through the Deerfield Valley in Augusta County, the route would traverse some of the most concentrated karst topography in the Allegheny region. A pipeline through this area would significantly increase the likelihood of catastrophic erosion and sediment pollution of several significant waterways. Furthermore, the new route opens up to potential devastation a whole new set of cultural and natural resources. The many newly affected landowners and local officials must be carefully consulted before the project should be allowed to continue with the FERC process.

Once again, Dominion has proposed a route without thinking through or understanding the environmental and other consequences of its decision.