



ABRA Update #68 – February 25, 2016

New Environmental Mapping System of ACP Now On-line

The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition, an ABRA member, has unveiled a new interactive mapping system of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) that organizes information on the environmental risks and sensitivities of the pipeline route, including the newly proposed alternative route through Pocahontas, Highland, Bath and Augusta Counties. When completed, information layers provided will include:

- Corridor and infrastructure (including access roads, staging areas and horizontal drilling locations);
- Corridor properties (slope steepness classification, soil erodibility classification)
- Corridor analysis (slope failure potential, runoff and sedimentation potential)
- Streams (crossing locations and method, stream classification, biological impact potential);
- Wetlands and riparian zones;
- Karst (limestone and dolomite distribution, sinkholes and sinking streams and springs);
- Water supply recharge areas;
- Forests (direct and interior forest loss, high-integrity forests); and
- Landscape classification (U.S, Forest Service management prescriptions, conservation lands, critical habitats).

The interactive mapping system and a slide presentation explaining it are available at: <http://pipelineupdate.org/> (top of right-hand column).

Pocahontas Meeting on New ACP Route Set for March 2

A public meeting to discuss the potential impacts of the newly proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 pm at the Linwood Community Library at Snowshoe, 72 Snowshoe Drive, Slatyfork, WV. ABRA is sponsoring the meeting, assisted by leaders from the Eight-Rivers Council, a founding member of ABRA.

Presentations will be made by: Lewis Freeman, Chair/Executive Director of ABRA; Rick Lambert, President of the Virginia Speleological Survey; and Joe Lovett, Executive Director of Appalachian Mountain Advocates, a Lewisburg, WV-based public interest law firm. A question and answer period will follow the presentations.

Questions about the March 2 meeting should be directed to Allen Johnson at [304-799-4137](tel:304-799-4137) or Lewis Freeman at [540-468-2769](tel:540-468-2769) and lewfreeman@gmail.com.

As reported in last week's Update, a similar meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 7:30 pm at the Hot Springs Fire Department, focusing on the impacts of the new ACP route in Bath County, VA.

Dominion Schedules Open Houses for New ACP Route

Dominion Transmission Inc. has scheduled three open houses for affected and interested property owners affected by and others interested in the new proposed route for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The open houses will be:

- Tuesday, March 8, 5-7:30 pm, Churchville Elementary School, Churchill, VA
- Wednesday, March 9, 5-7:30 pm, Bath County High School, Warm Springs, VA
- Thursday, March 10, 5-7:30 pm, Snowshoe Mountain Resort, Mt. Lodge Ballroom

Rover Pipeline EIS Released – Instructive Reading

A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Rover Pipeline and two associated projects was published on February 19. Comments on the draft EIS are due April 11, 2-16.

Rover, et.al. is a 510-mile pipeline that would deliver up to 3.25 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas supply from the Marcellus and Utica Shale producers in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio through interconnections with existing pipeline infrastructure in Ohio and Michigan to supply interstate natural gas pipelines and storage facilities as well as markets in the Gulf Coast, Midwest, and Canadian regions. A review of the Rover EIS is an instructive example of what an EIS for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) might resemble. Some highlights and observations:

- Rover’s delivery projections are over twice what is proposed for the ACP (1.5 Bcf/d), though the ACP could increase to 2 Bcf/d with the addition of more compressor stations.
- The Rover project would include 24 to 42-inch pipeline and appurtenant facilities, including 10 new compressor stations. The associated projects have 8 total existing compressor stations, which would be subject to modifications.
- Rover’s application to FERC was filed February 23, 2015, one year before the draft was published. The project pre-filed with FERC on June 26, 2014.
- The draft EIS totals 450 pages, including a 12-page Executive Summary.
- Regarding need for the project, the draft EIS concludes:

“No existing pipeline system with the capacity to transport the contracted load connects the Marcellus and Utica Shale regions to serve the Project markets. Therefore, we do not consider use of existing pipeline systems as feasible alternatives for the proposed Projects.”
- FERC is to be kept apprised by Rover of incidents where

“a homeowner’s insurance policy was either cancelled or voided due directly to the grant of the pipeline right-of-way or installation of the pipeline and/or that the premium for the homeowner’s insurance increased materially and directly as a result of the grant of the pipeline right-of-way or installation of the pipeline. The reports shall also identify how Rover has mitigated the impact. These reports shall be included in Rover’s weekly construction status reports and in its quarterly reports for a 2-year period following in-service of the Project.”

It is unclear how FERC will enforce this requirement if, for instance, the Project doesn’t satisfactorily comply, such as submitting an unsatisfactory mitigation plan.

The complete Rover EIS is available at:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/z2ockbuj6xahn8z/Rover_Pipeline_EIS.pdf?dl=0

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Correspondent of the Day: Why won't Dominion co-locate pipeline?

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 2/22/16

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article_3053e853-c02a-5710-92ab-27d83661b4b3.html

Friends of Wintergreen respond to Richmond Times...other routes *have* been suggested

Pipeline too risky for Robeson

- Robesonian – 2/22/16

<https://robsonian.com/opinion/84600/pipeline-too-risky-for-robeson>

More signs that not all of NC is on board. Key-Log's study gets a shout out

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Bondurant: Pipeline plays the system

- Roanoke Times – 2/20/16

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/bondurant-pipeline-plays-the-system/article_950de6b5-a280-5bfe-a63d-9971fc95e380.html

Franklin County and pipeline opponents reach agreement on information request

- Roanoke Times – 2/17/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/franklin-county-and-pipeline-opponents-reach-agreement-on-information-request/article_dbb80679-b56d-5623-b9a6-88b6cd6c4665.html

Franklin County residents' questions about to be answered. BOS not amused by Preserve Franklin's humor.

Big Picture:

As U.S. shale sinks, pipeline fight sends woes downstream

- Reuters – 2/23/16

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-oil-lawsuits-idUSKCN0VV0DK>

A wave of bankruptcies could shake the pipeline industry to its foundation.

FERC calls for additional steps to minimize environmental impacts on the Rover Pipeline

- Akron Beacon Journal – 2/24/16

<http://www.ohio.com/business/utica/ferc-calls-for-additional-steps-to-minimize-environmental-impacts-on-the-rover-pipeline-1.663916>

But not so many, as it turns out

Environmental Groups Are Pushing To Overhaul The Way The U.S. And Canada Reviews Pipelines

- Climate Progress – 2/23/16

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/02/23/3752557/canada-us-pipeline-test/>

Maybe our northern sibling will give us a kick in the...right direction

Federal judge declares lack of jurisdiction in lawsuit filed by Tennessee Gas Pipeline opponents

- Daily Hampshire Gazette – 2/18/16

<http://www.gazettenet.com/home/21110919-95/federal-judge-declares-lack-of-jurisdiction-in-lawsuit-filed-by-tennessee-gas-pipeline-opponents>

Judge pushes suit to Federal Court of Appeals in D.C.

Natural gas pipeline OK comes with many conditions

- EnergyBiz.com – 2/23/16

<http://www.energybiz.com/article/16/02/natural-gas-pipeline-ok-comes-many-conditions>

Many assurances that Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast Connection will take great pains to avoid environmental damage

It's true: Dominion dumped toxic coal ash waste into our rivers

- CCAN – 2/22/16

<http://chesapeakeclimate.org/blog/its-true-dominion-dumped-toxic-coal-ash-waste-into-our-rivers/>

Not directly related to ACP, but displays Dominion's behavior toward the environment. Maryland considers lawsuit to halt further dumping.