



ABRA Update #71 – March 17, 2016

Dominion Files Route Changes to ACP

Details about changes to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) announced by Dominion in February, accompanied by several route modifications, were filed with FERC on March 11. The [filing](#), which is an amendment to the original September 18, 2015 application for a permit to build the ACP, includes more specific descriptions of the route alternatives that the company proposed. It includes variations to the route maps announced in February that re-directed the project into central-Pocahontas County, WV, Bath County, VA and the Deerfield Valley portion of Augusta County, VA. Dominion describes the new route as a “minor change,” though it amounts to nearly 100 miles of new route to the project.

In addition to the previously announced route changes, the filing includes route modifications in Pocahontas, Bath and Nelson Counties and announces that the compression for the Buckingham County compressor station would be increased from 40,715 to 53,515 horsepower. The filing also claims that all surveying for the new route will be completed by April 15, 2016!

Hampton Roads Caucus Expresses Support For ACP

“The need for this project is urgent” was cited as a reason to build the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in a March 11 [letter](#) from 33 members of the Hampton Roads Caucus, a group of legislators in the Virginia General Assembly representing districts in southeastern Virginia, to U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Continuing, the legislators said:

“Without new infrastructure, there is no way to meet our region’s rising demand for natural gas. And without new infrastructure, the abundant, economical supplies of natural gas being produced just a few hundred miles away will remain virtually inaccessible for our communities, crippling our prospects for economic growth.”

The Sierra Club issued a [statement](#) in response noting that the legislators’ letter failed “to acknowledge that Dominion Virginia Power’s current energy plans would increase carbon pollution by more than 60% at the same time Hampton Roads area is being inundated by sea level rise as a result of global warming.”

Critique of Industry Property Values Study Available

A [critique](#) of the recently released study on the effect of pipelines on property values is now available on the ABRA website. The Interstate Natural Gas Association of America (INGAA) released a [report](#) last month claiming that the presence of a natural gas pipeline had no impact on the value of affected property. Key-Log Economics, a Charlottesville, VA firm that produced in February a study on the economic impact of the ACP in four Virginia counties, says that the INGAA study “is merely reporting that there is little difference in the price of things that are not materially different. The authors should be comparing apples to oranges, but instead they compare oranges to oranges.”

Reminder: Forest Service Comments on New Route Due March 21

The U.S. Forest Service deadline for comments on the new proposed route for the ACP through the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests is Monday, March 21. The comment notices are available for the Monongahela [here](#) and for the GW [here](#).

GAO Examination of FERC Sought

The General Accountability Office, an agency of the Federal Government that conducts studies and assessments for Congress, is being asked to conduct an independent investigation into the funding of, and operations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding its review and approvals of natural gas pipeline infrastructure and LNG export facility proposals. Over 240 organizations have endorsed the effort. Those interested in becoming a signatory should visit <http://bit.ly/SignOnGAOReview>.

Forest Service Comments on MVP Resource Reports

The U.S. Forest Service (NFS) filed on March 9 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [comments](#) on the final Resource Reports filed on the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). The NFS comments expressed particular concerns regarding several water issues and the crossing of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Karst could be key to whether pipeline comes through area

- The Recorder – 3/17/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/karst_could_be_key_to_whether_pipeline_comes_through_area-recorder_3-17-16.pdf

Atlantic Coast Pipeline receives General Assembly support

- News Leader – 3/15/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2016/03/15/atlantic-coast-pipeline-receives-general-assembly-support/81809888/>

Virginia Supreme Court Declines Challenge to Pipeline Survey Law

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 3/9/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/va_supremecourt_denies_hearingsurveylaw_20160309.pdf

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Innes: Misleading Photo Circulates About Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 3/14/16

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/innes-misleading-photo-circulates-about-pipeline/article_3261bc82-dd36-57b5-b7be-0315eb9c1362.html

Columbia spokesman claims concerns unfounded

Controversy kicks back up surrounding proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline

- WVNSTV.com – 3/15/16

<http://www.wvnstv.com/story/31480133/controversy-kicks-back-up-surrounding-proposed-mountain-valley-pipeline>

Residents concerned about proposed compressor station

Franklin County landowners hope historic artifacts help stop Mountain Valley Pipeline

- WSLS10.com – 3/10/16

<http://wsls.com/2016/03/10/franklin-county-landowners-hope-historic-artifacts-help-stop-mountain-valley-pipeline/>

Big Picture:

The Case Against Gas Pipelines

- Commonwealth – 3/14/16

<http://commonwealthmagazine.org/environment/the-case-against-gas-pipelines/>

1st of 3-part series examining challenges associated with adoption of carbon-free energy supplies and changing the legislative and regulatory environment to promote sound energy outcomes - Good read

FERC denies Oregon LNG project applications

- JD Supra Business Advisor – 3/15/16

<http://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/ferc-denies-oregon-lng-project-51278/>

Some rather convoluted reasoning to get there...but we'll take it!

Related:

<http://www.gjsentinel.com/news/articles/jordan-cove-wont-lack-for-customers-its-developer>

<http://www.timesunion.com/tuplus-business/article/Pacific-coast-natural-gas-pipeline-rejection-by-6889633.php>

PennEast pipeline unnecessary, would increase gas rates, study says

- NJ.com – 3/11/16

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2016/03/penneast_pipeline_unnecessary_would_increase_gas_r.ht
[ml](http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2016/03/penneast_pipeline_unnecessary_would_increase_gas_r.ht)

Study says pipeline would shift existing demand, not alleviate alleged shortcomings of current system

Constitution delays pipeline opening date

- Watershed Post – 3/11/16

<http://www.watershedpost.com/2016/constitution-delays-pipeline-opening-date>

Waiting on CWA 401 water permits from NY DEC.

The U.S.-Canada Gas Market War Will Heat Up in 2017

- Bloomberg Business – 3/14/16

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-11/in-drive-to-deflate-natural-gas-surplus-u-s-pounces-on-canada>