



ABRA Update #74 – April 7, 2016

April 23 Pipeline Summit – Not to Be Missed!

A *Pipeline Summit – Energize, Equip and Empower* will be held Saturday, April 23 at the Weyer’s Cave Community Center, Weyer’s Cave, VA from 10 am to 3 pm. Joining ABRA as a co-sponsor is POWHR (Protect Our Water Heritage Rights), a coalition of organizations in 11 counties in Virginia and West Virginia that are opposing the Mountain Valley Pipeline. We welcome their participation.

The Summit is designed to energize, equip and empower participants with improved information, messages and skills to carry on their efforts in 2016 and beyond to defeat the pipelines proposed across the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region. There is a \$10 charge for lunch and beverages (a wide choice of sandwiches and salads will be available), payable at the meeting.

The Summit will feature morning panel presentations on:

- Pipeline Economics – The Need and the Impacts
- Environmental Challenges – New Tools That Are Available
- Lessons Learned in the Battlefield (a discussion of experiences in combatting proposed pipelines, featuring [Jane Kleeb](#), who led the fight against the Keystone Pipeline)

The afternoon will feature five breakout discussion groups:

1. Pipeline Economics – what else we need to know and strategies to improve our messages on need and impacts
2. Growing the Grass Roots – techniques to increase citizen involvement
3. Political Climate Change – improving legislator’s receptivity to our messages
4. Geographic Information Systems – enhancing our understanding of pipeline impacts
5. Programmatic EIS – why we need it and how we must sell it

An agenda of the Summit is [here](#). The meeting is open to persons associated with ABRA and POWHR member groups. But, space is limited, so register now at this [link](#).

VOF Voices Objection to New ACP Route

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) has expressed deep concern over the new route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. In an April 7 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Martha Little, Deputy Director of Stewardship or the VOF, noted that “the route segment referred to as GWNF-6, proposed by ACP to avoid Forest Service lands and certain wildlife species has resulted in significant potential impacts to VOF open-space lands. This route change would result in the pipeline crossing 9 protected open-space easements in Highland, Bath and Augusta Counties.”

Continuing, Ms. Little's letter stated:

“The pipeline also crosses an additional open space easement in Nelson county. These properties include areas of high ecological integrity, high priority conservation area forests, critical karst resources, scenic protected areas, streams designated as supporting trout habitat as well as important historic resources. VOF is extremely concerned about the impacts this project will have on these critical protected resources and has stated its opposition to this new alignment. VOF urges ACP representatives to avoid these open-space easement properties.”

The VOF letter is available on the [FERC website](#).

Nelson County Businesses, Citizens Call for Strong Federal Review of Proposed Pipelines

44 Nelson County, VA businesses, 4 community organizations and hundreds of private citizens have called on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to conduct a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS), a comprehensive, simultaneous review of the four natural gas pipelines that are proposed to cross Virginia. The usual procedure for FERC is to consider projects individually, regardless of their proximity to one another or their cumulative effects.

Randy Whiting of Friends of Nelson, an ABRA member, said: “We’re simply asking that FERC get a plan. There is no comprehensive environmental and economic review of the more than 1,000 miles of pipelines proposed that would slice across Virginia.” FERC has previously received requests for a PEIS from U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, Congressmen Robert Hurt, Bob Goodlatte and Morgan Griffith, as well as over a dozen Members of the Virginia General Assembly.

A copy of the Friends of Nelson [press release](#) is available on the ABRA website.

Shenandoah Riverkeeper Joins ABRA

We are pleased to welcome Shenandoah Riverkeeper to the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. Mark Frondorf is the voting representative. More about the organization can be found on [Facebook](#). This brings the coalition membership to 48 organizations!

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Nelson businesses call for federal review of proposed pipelines

- Augusta Free Press – 4/6/16

<http://augustafreepress.com/nelson-businesses-call-federal-review-proposed-pipelines/>

New challenge to Atlantic Coast Pipeline, fracked gas power plant

- Augusta Free Press – 4/4/16

<http://augustafreepress.com/new-challenge-atlantic-coast-pipeline-fracked-gas-power-plant/>

Directly-connected projects should not be reviewed or analyzed in isolation, asserts opposition comments

Pipeline claims made by Hampton Roads Caucus inaccurate

- The News Virginian – 3/31/16

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest_columnists/pipeline-claims-made-by-hampton-roads-caucus-inaccurate/article_df69ee94-f6e6-11e5-af17-335ebcea5c49.html

There is more than one option to increase Hampton Roads' supply of natural gas

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Picturing the Pipeline

- VQR – 4/5/16

<http://www.vqronline.org/articles/2016/04/picturing-pipeline>

Beautifully-written piece conveying the impacts and losses associated with the proposed MVP and highlights decisions we all must make about what we value

Dominion gets nod for new plant, higher charges

- The Daily Press – 3/30/16/16

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/politics/dp-nws-dominion-gas-20160330-story.html>

And what exactly happened to the “Rate Freeze”? Right...there never really WAS one

Big Picture:

Philly’s energy hub: A renaissance for the Delaware Valley or a pipe dream?

- StateImpact Pennsylvania – 4/1/16

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2016/04/01/phillys-energy-hub-a-renaissance-for-the-delaware-valley-or-a-pipe-dream/>

“Reserves measured in centuries” – incorrect information continually cited by boosters of Marcellus expansion, related projects

Climate Change column: Pipeline opposition grows without big media

- WickedLocal North of Boston – 4/2/16

<http://northofboston.wickedlocal.com/article/20160402/OPINION/160408922/?Start=1>

Many stories going untold by major media outlets...local newspapers taking up the slack – good read on recent developments in New England

Elaine Ulman: The Monster of Minisink – a cautionary tale for fracked gas era

- Daily Hampshire Gazette – 4/5/16

<http://www.gazettenet.com/Opinion/Columns/Elaine-Ulman-The-Monster-of-Minisink-%E2%80%93-a-cautionary-tale-for-fracked-gas-era-1302383>

Arrogance imperiling natural gas industry

- The Times-Tribune.com – 4/3/16

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/opinion/arrogance-imperiling-natural-gas-industry-1.2026172>

Pro-gas-leaning editorial does hit the nail pretty squarely regarding industry behavior

Oregon LNG Project Receives New Life Days After Feds Rejection

- Forbes – 4/1/16

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/timdaiss/2016/04/01/oregon-energy-project-receives-new-life-days-after-feds-rejection/2/#6a2e02084c66>

Developer’s move not totally unexpected but carries a whiff of “desperation”

Consequences of Gas Leak Could Lead to California Blackouts

- ABC News – 4/5/16

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/officials-gas-leak-blackouts-california-38171379>

With New Tools, A Focus On Urban Methane Leaks

- Yale Environment360 – 4/4/16

<http://e360.yale.edu/feature/with-new-tools-focus-on-urban-methane-leaks/2979/>