



## ***ABRA Update #82 – June 3, 2016***

### **Seeds of Resistance Tour Set for June 6-8**

Oil Change International and Bold Alliance will be leading next week a Ponca Corn Seeds of Resistance tour on the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley proposed pipeline routes. Local supporting groups include ABRA, Augusta County Alliance, Friends of Nelson County, the POWHR Coalition, Preserve Franklin Co. VA, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Preserve Montgomery Co. VA and Preserve Monroe Co. WV. The events will replicate a strategy used in the fight against the XL Pipeline by Bold Nebraska (and discussed by Jane Kleeb at the April 23 Pipeline Summit). More details [here](#).

### **Energy Bill in Congress Heads for Conference**

The final version of a congressional energy bill that would expedite the approval process for pipelines and liquefied natural gas facilities will now be developed by a conference committee. The U.S. House of Representatives on May 25 approved 241-178, generally along party lines, an amended version to a Senate-passed bill, [S. 2012](#), generally along party lines. A Senate-version of the bill was approved by that body on April 20 by an 85-12 vote. President Obama has previously expressed disagreement with several features of both the House and Senate versions of the bill, so it is unclear whether the bill that results from the conference committee would be signed.

### **2015 A Record Breaking Year for Renewable Energy**

2015 was a record year for renewable energy installations, according to new report from the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (RE21). *The Renewables 2016 Global Status Report*, released on June 1, found that:

An estimated 147 gigawatts (GW) of renewable power capacity was added in 2015, the largest annual increase ever, while renewable heat capacity increased by around 38 gigawatts-thermal, and total biofuels production also rose. This growth occurred despite tumbling global prices for all fossil fuels, ongoing fossil fuel subsidies and other challenges facing renewables, including the integration of rising shares of renewable generation, policy and political instability, regulatory barriers and fiscal constraints.

**For questions about Update items, contact:**

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In the News – *Dan Shaffer*, [dshaffer@abralliance.org](mailto:dshaffer@abralliance.org)

Among other findings:

- In 2015, global investment in new renewable power capacity, at USD 265.8 billion, was more than double the USD 130 billion allocated to new coal- and natural gas-fired power generation capacity. This difference in favor of renewables is the largest witnessed to date.
- For the first time in history, total investment in renewable power and fuels in developing countries in 2015 exceeded that in developed economies. The developing world, including China, India and Brazil, committed a total of USD 156 billion (up 19% compared to 2014).

The report is available at <http://www.ren21.net/status-of-renewables/global-status-report/>.

### **Friends of Nelson Asks FERC to Reject ACP Surveys**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has been asked by Friends of Nelson County (FoN) to reject survey submissions by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACP LLC) regarding landowner and survey information and undertake an independent investigation to assure the validity and veracity of this information. The [June 1 filing](#) cites numerous examples of regularities in surveying practices. It concludes by asking that “FERC commissioners contact ACP, LLC and require them to verify with landowners, the current status of survey for their properties. The ACP has clearly put itself in an adversarial position with landowners and certainly will agree that there is an urgent need to establish some degree of trust. Failure to do that will only serve to slow this project and cast additional doubt on the integrity of the Resource Reports, which include confidential landowner information that cannot be reviewed by the public.”

### **Pipeline Summit Presentations Now Online**

Slide presentations made at the April 10 Pipeline Summit in Weyers Cave, VA are now available on the ABRA website. These include all four presentations made as part of the “Pipeline Economics” panel (by Greg Buppert, Thomas Hadwin, Spencer Phillips and Lorne Stockman), Rick Webb’s presentation on “Environmental Challenges – New Tools That Are Available,” and Jane Kleeb’s presentation as part of the “Lessons Learned in the Battlefield” panel. Also posted are two videos that Jane referenced in her presentation. The link for the presentations is <http://www.abralliance.org/pipeline-summit-april-2016/>. Summaries of the breakout discussion groups will be added to the website page later.

### **New Info Items Available on ABRA and the ACP**

Two new information pieces have been developed for use by ABRA members. A two-page profile of the coalition, describing its purpose, members and governance is available on the home page of the ABRA website under “More about ABRA” ([www.abralliance.org](http://www.abralliance.org)). Also on the home page is piece entitled “The Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Wrong for the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Region.” This two-page discussion is based on the policy position developed by ABRA in June 2015. ABRA members are encouraged to distribute these documents to others who would find them of interest.

## ***In the News:***

### **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

#### **Dominion accused of “gross violations”**

- The Recorder – 6/2/16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Dominion\\_accused\\_of\\_gross\\_violations-Recorder\\_6-2-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Dominion_accused_of_gross_violations-Recorder_6-2-16.pdf)  
 Suggests that something stinks...and it's long past time to clean house

#### **Swapping Easements?**

- Easement Trades** – Recorder – 6/2/16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Easement\\_trades-Recorder-20160602.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Easement_trades-Recorder-20160602.pdf)
- Is there nothing that money can't buy?** – Recorder – 6/2/16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Is\\_there\\_nothing\\_money\\_cant\\_buy-Recorder\\_6-2-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Is_there_nothing_money_cant_buy-Recorder_6-2-16.pdf)
- Resident urges VOF to deny land swap** – Recorder – 6/2/16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Resident\\_urges\\_VOF\\_to\\_deny\\_land\\_swap-Recorder\\_6-2-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Resident_urges_VOF_to_deny_land_swap-Recorder_6-2-16.pdf)

#### **Unlikely allies join to protest pipeline**

- News Leader – 5/29/16  
<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2016/05/29/unlikely-allies-join-protest-pipeline/85130566/>  
 Unlikely alliances, protections afforded religious freedom aid opposition to pipeline projects

#### **Tied vote on pipeline unlikely**

- The Recorder – 5/26//16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Tied\\_vote\\_on\\_pipeline\\_unlikely-Recorder\\_5-26-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Tied_vote_on_pipeline_unlikely-Recorder_5-26-16.pdf)  
 Unlike SCOTUS, an even numbered panel not terribly significant

#### **The pipeline's impact**

- The Farmville Herald – 5/26/16  
<http://www.farmvilleherald.com/2016/05/the-pipelines-impact/>  
 Massive pipeline projects proposed for Appalachia neither as safe as advertised nor for “public good”

### **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

#### **Sligh: McAuliffe stifles discussion of pipelines**

- Roanoke Times – 6/1/16  
[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Roanoke\\_Times\\_Op-Ed\\_06-01-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Roanoke_Times_Op-Ed_06-01-16.pdf)

#### **Archaeologists uncover artifacts in Mountain Valley Pipeine's path**

- Roanoke Times – 5/31/16  
[http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin\\_county/archaeologists-uncover-artifacts-in-mountain-valley-pipeline-s-path/article\\_7e5590c4-fa42-52a3-96d3-603a1dcdcb88.html](http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/archaeologists-uncover-artifacts-in-mountain-valley-pipeline-s-path/article_7e5590c4-fa42-52a3-96d3-603a1dcdcb88.html)  
 Landowners hiring archeologists to survey for historical artifacts...MVP contractors thoroughness questioned, redacted reporting questioned

#### **Complaint: utilities' role in Atlantic Coast Pipeline violates antitrust laws**

- PowerForThePeopleVA.com – 6/2/16  
<https://powerforthepeopleva.com/2016/06/02/complaint-utilities-role-in-atlantic-coast-pipeline-violates-antitrust-laws/>  
 More rumbles of possible anti-trust violations in the pipeline industry...this one close to home

### Students follow pipeline trail to highlight concerns

- Star-Tribune – 6/1/16

[http://www.chathamstartribune.com/news/article\\_c79b8168-2802-11e6-94af-f78cf76dee57.html](http://www.chathamstartribune.com/news/article_c79b8168-2802-11e6-94af-f78cf76dee57.html)

## Big Picture:

### Groups: Strict pollution controls for Greenville plant should be applied to ACP

- Augusta Free Press – 5/XX/16

<http://augustafreepress.com/groups-strict-pollution-controls-greenville-plant-applied-acp/>

### Fossil Fuels' Unpopularity Leaves a Mark

- Wall Street Journal – 6/1/16

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/fossil-fuels-unpopularity-leaves-a-mark-1464827381>

Abandoned plans and facilities scattered across the US indicate public's growing unease with continued fossil fuel use

### Despite price bounce, natural gas rebound remains far off

- Trib Live – 5/28/16

<http://triblive.com/business/headlines/10492324-74/gas-char-datename>

Despite drilling pullback, production continues to increase amidst a continuing global gas glut

### Bill aims to increase public's voice in pipeline projects

- The Keene Sentinel – 6/1/16

[http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/bill-aims-to-increase-public-s-voice-in-pipeline-projects/article\\_00bf60c1-0110-584b-9e9c-569433d8c9d1.html](http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/bill-aims-to-increase-public-s-voice-in-pipeline-projects/article_00bf60c1-0110-584b-9e9c-569433d8c9d1.html)

Local resolve to reform FERC gaining traction in NH at state level

### Kinder Morgan gets FERC approval on LNG export project

- FuelFix – 6/2/16

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2016/06/02/kinder-morgan-gets-ferc-approval-on-lng-export-project/>

Elba Island facility is connected to the Dominion Carolina Gas Transmission pipeline system which Dominion acquired in December of 2014

### Oil companies banned from seizing property for pipelines in South Carolina

- The State – 6/1/16

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article81271832.html>

South Carolina passes bill banning use of eminent domain for oil pipelines for 3 years for study...governor has no comment as to whether she'll sign

### Revealed: Contractors Hired by FERC to Review a New Spectra Energy Pipeline Work for Spectra on a Related Project

- DeSmog – 5/26/16

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/05/26/revealed-contractors-hired-ferc-review-new-spectra-energy-pipeline-work-spectra-related-project>

It should be determined whether any 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractors associated with ACP/MVP have similar relationships with the projects and thus similar conflicts of interest