



ABRA Update #88 – July 14, 2016

ABRA at Two

It has been nearly two years since a group of environmental and conservation organizations in Virginia met in Staunton to discuss what to do about the Southeast Reliability Project (the original name for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline), proposed the previous May by Dominion Resources. The July 17, 2014 meeting, co-hosted by the Valley Conservation Council and the Cowpasture River Preservation Association, produced a decision to form a committee to develop recommendations for creating a coalition to confront the proposed project. On August 5 representatives of 13 organizations agreed to the organizational committee's recommendations to form the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA) as a coalition to share information. The public announcement of ABRA's formation (by then, 22 organizations) was made September 8.

In the ensuing two years, ABRA has grown to become a coalition of 50 organizations in Virginia and West Virginia. Its activities now go far beyond just sharing information. It develops and coordinates strategies, files comments, sponsors studies and has become a leading voice in the fight against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Our thanks to all of you receiving this 88th weekly newsletter for your valuable input and support to help preserve the integrity of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region from being marred by inappropriate, harmful and unneeded energy infrastructure.

FERC Seeks Comments from Landowners Newly Affected by Alternative Route

Landowners whose property has recently been targeted by route changes in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have been invited by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to comment on the impact of the ACP on their property. The [July 6 letter](#) from FERC states:

The Commission staff wants to provide all newly identified potentially affected landowners along each route modification with the opportunity to participate in our environmental review process. You are encouraged to become involved in this process and provide your specific comments or concerns about the route modifications and the ACP. Please file or mail your comments so they are received in Washington, DC, by August 5, 2016. However, please note that FERC staff will continue to accept and evaluate comments received after this timeframe.

Key ACP Staffer Leaves Dominion

William Scarpinato, Environmental Manager for Dominion Transmission, Inc. and a prominent presence in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline discussions with FERC, local government and property owners, has left the company. Further details are not available. Mr. Scarpinato has been replaced by Richard Gangle, who has previously been involved in Dominion's Cove Point LNG project. Mr. Gangle's email is Richard.b.gangle@dom.com.

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – *Lew Freeman*, lewfreeman@gmail.com

In the News – *Dan Shaffer*, dshaffer@abralliance.org

VOF Story Map Posted

An Unprecedented Request is the name of a new Story Map on Dominion Resources request of the [Virginia Outdoors Foundation \(VOF\)](#) to abandon its stewardship role on 10 protected private properties (totaling 4,567 acres) in western Virginia to make way for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. It is available on the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition [website](#).

March on Mansion Program Details Announced – Register Now!

WHAT: “March on the Mansion” for Our Land, Clean Water, and Climate Justice

WHEN: **Saturday, July 23, 2016, 12 noon - 3:00 p.m.** Rally at 12 noon; March from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.; Closing music and speeches at 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Rally at Brown’s Island Park along the James River in downtown Richmond. The march will set off from Brown’s Island, go to and around the Governor’s mansion, and end at the Capitol Bell Tower. A media tent will be near the stage on Brown’s Island to connect journalists with spokespeople.

VISUALS: Marchers will carry a 40-foot-long mock pipeline, giant puppets representing Gov. McAuliffe and fossil fuel lobbyists, a 15-foot-long banner reading “McAuliffe: People Over Polluters” and dozens of colorful signs and banners.

WHO: Virginians directly affected by harmful fossil fuels, joined by hundreds of students, faith and social justice leaders, river lovers, and climate activists. Speakers will include:

- **Ellen Darden** of Protect our Water, Heritage & Rights (POWHR)
- **Carolyn Reilly**, Franklin County farmer whose land would be crossed by the Mountain Valley Pipeline and organizer with the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
- **Dan Marrow**, a resident of Quantico whose family lives near Dominion’s coal ash ponds and now drinks bottle water due to trace contaminants
- **Lewis Freeman**, Chair & Executive Director of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance
- **Heidi Cochran**, a Nelson County landowner who has been a leading voice in the fight against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline
- **Janice “Jay” Johnson**, a Newport News resident affected by climate change and State Governing Board member of Virginia Organizing (rally emcee)
- **Jane Kleeb**, leader who helped defeat the Keystone XL pipeline and president of the Bold Alliance
- **The Reverend Weston Mathews**, Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Virginia
- **Lauren Malhotra**, member of the Virginia Student Environmental Coalition and a Virginia Tech student
- **Mike Tidwell**, Director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER: Visit MarchontheMansion.org to see the full list of endorsing organizations, FAQs, and other updates.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Closer to home: Could pipeline run through Albemarle?

- Cville – 7/12/16

<http://www.c-ville.com/closer-home-pipeline-run-albemarle/#.V4bAwvkrLZ4>

Probably not, but it should not be built, period...forget about re-routes!

ACP is corrupt, insulting, disgusting

- News Leader – 7/7/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/readers/2016/07/07/acp-corrupt-insulting-disgusting/86805174/>

Hard to disagree if one has done one's homework

Expert: Dominion's Scheme For \$19.2 Billion Nuclear Reactor Would Be "Most Expensive" In U.S., Result In Massive Pain For Virginia Ratepayers

- PR Newswire – 7/12/16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/expert-dominions-scheme-for-192-billion-nuclear-reactor-would-be-most-expensive-in-us-result-in-massive-pain-for-virginia-ratepayers-300297470.html>

Once again, Dominion looking out for shareholder and C-suite interests...not Virginia's.

Related:

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/business/article89116102.html>

Fluor to proceed on Dominion's Greenville County Power Station in Virginia

- Electric Light & Power – 7/13/16

<http://www.elp.com/articles/2016/07/fluor-to-proceed-on-dominion-s-greenville-county-power-station-in-virginia.html>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Southeastern Electric Utilities Find Their Way to Higher Profits Through Gas Pipelines and Captive Consumers

- The Energy Collective – 7/11/16

<http://www.theenergycollective.com/ivy-main/2382452/southeastern-electric-utilities-find-their-way-to-higher-profits-through-gas-pipelines-and-captive-consumers-2>

Pinpoints the ACP's use of captive ratepayers (and their own subsidiaries) for private profit

West Virginia Oil and Gas Leader Corky DeMarco Dies

- TheIntelligencer – 7/14/16

<http://www.theintelligencer.net/news/community/2016/07/west-virginia-oil-and-gas-leader-corky-demarco-dies/>

Big Picture:

EDITORIAL: Pipeline debates need broader perspective

- Asbury Park Press – 7/8/16

<http://www.app.com/story/opinion/editorials/2016/07/08/editorial-pipeline-debates-need-broader-perspective/86870730/>

Three former governors allying with opposition over web of proposed pipelines in NJ

Federal critiques of pipeline project's vetting continue to mount

- PennLive.com – 7/13/16

http://www.pennlive.com/news/2016/07/federal_critiques_of_pipeline.html

US Dept. of Interior adds its concerns to Atlantic Sunrise EIS from the FERC

Related:

- http://www.dailyitem.com/news/local_news/epa-more-info-needed-on-pipeline-project/article_b5efff3a-32dc-54e2-b723-14cef1780002.html

Energy company trying to condemn land from reticent property owners

- The State – 7/7/16

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article88332132.html>

Dominion's practices that we know and love are apparently its standard fare in other states as well

API Calls PHMSA's Proposed Pipeline Rules 'Arbitrary, Capricious'

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 7/7/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/API_calls_PHMSAs_Pipeline_Rules_ArbitraryAndCapricious_20160707.pdf

In a shocking turn of events, American Petroleum Institute is unhappy with regulation aimed at oil and gas production and distribution

Nuke, oil generators complain to feds about state gas 'pipeline scheme'

- Bangor Daily News – 7/8/16

<http://bangordailynews.com/2016/07/08/business/nuke-oil-generators-complain-to-feds-about-state-gas-pipeline-scheme/>

Power generators urging against ratepayer-funded pipeline contracts in Maine

World's Largest Storage Battery Will Power Los Angeles

- Scientific American – 7/7/16

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/world-s-largest-storage-battery-will-power-los-angeles/>

An alternative to an operating gas-fired "peaker" ...California is pursuing this now...so maybe by 2050, Dominion will do a study on it...maybe

New York utility plans largest U.S. offshore wind farm

- Electric Light & Power – 7/14/16

<http://www.elp.com/articles/2016/07/new-york-utility-plans-largest-u-s-offshore-wind-farm.html>

As another state and utility step up...Dominion and Virginia fall farther behind