



ABRA Update #90 – July 28, 2016

Hundreds Protest Governor McAuliffe's Energy and Environment Policies



More than 600 people from throughout Virginia converged in Richmond July 23 to voice their disappointment with Governor McAuliffe's policy positions and actions (or inactions) on natural gas pipelines, water quality, energy justice and several other environmental issues. The crowd was undeterred by the 101-degree heat of the day. The event, organized by the Chesapeake Climate Action Alliance, began with a rally on Brown's Island and concluded with a march through downtown Richmond to the Governor's Mansion. Among speakers who addressed the rally regarding the Governor's support for the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines were Heidi Cochran (Friends of Nelson County), Lew Freeman (ABRA), Carolyn Reilly (Franklin County, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League) and Rick Shingles (Giles County, POWHR Coalition). The March was preceded by a [June 15 letter to Governor McAuliffe](#) signed by 60 Virginia environment and conservation groups, including ABRA and several of its members.

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – Lew Freeman, lewfreeman@gmail.com

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



Proposed Pipelines Threatened U.S. Climate Change Goals

A [new report released on July 22](#) states that “the currently planned gas production expansion in Appalachia would make meeting goals impossible.” The report, *A Bridge Too Far: How Appalachian Basin Gas Pipelines Expansion Will Undermine U.S. Climate Goals*, was produced by Oil Change International (www.priceofoil.org), a Washington, DC-based research/advocacy organization. Among report highlights are:

- The U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (EIA) latest projection for U.S. gas supply and demand (Annual Energy Outlook 2016) shows a 55 percent increase in production and a 24 percent increase in consumption by 2040. The difference between the greater rise in production than consumption would go to export.
- The rise in gas consumption projected by the EIA would alone lead to emissions that would surpass the current long-term U.S. climate target by 2040, even after accounting for methane leakage cuts.
- The report recommends:
 1. All federal government agencies and departments, including FERC, should apply a climate test in the permitting processes of all fossil fuel infrastructure, including in Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements.
 2. No new natural gas pipeline projects should be considered unless they can pass a climate test. The climate test should be applied to all currently pending and future pipeline applications.
 3. The EIA should provide detailed guidance in its Outlook reports for U.S. fossil fuel supply and demand under various climate goals, including the nation’s long-term climate goal, a 2°C path, and a 1.5°C path.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline To Be Built In Winter

- The Recorder – 7/28/16

[http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Pipeline to be built in winter-Recorder 7-28-16.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Pipeline%20to%20be%20built%20in%20winter-Recorder%207-28-16.pdf)

A Fracking Pipeline Puts Tim Kaine's Fossil Fuel Industry Ties To The Test

- The Intercept – 7/28/16

<https://theintercept.com/2016/07/28/a-fracking-pipeline-puts-tim-kaines-fossil-fuel-industry-ties-to-the-test/>

600 Virginians Join 'March On The Mansion' To Tell Gov. McAuliffe: Put People Over Polluters On Pipelines, Coal Ash, And Climate Action

- Blue Virginia – 7/23/16

<http://bluevirginia.us/2016/07/600-virginians-join-march-mansion-tell-gov-mcauliffe-put-people-polluters-pipelines-coal-ash-climate-action>

Related:

- http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_8e1b5bbe-559e-576e-b21f-0912fo8cbff3.html
- <http://www.newsplex.com/content/news/Anti-pipeline-protest-shifts-focus-to-Governor-Terry-McAuliffe--388037172.html>
- <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jul/23/hundreds-protest-governors-positions-on-fossil-fue/>

Fayetteville Forum Set On Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Fayetteville Observer – 7/26/16

http://www.fayobserver.com/news/local/fayetteville-forum-set-on-proposed-atlantic-coast-pipeline/article_cdbae9ea-5c98-5f5b-a844-34dbff25efd.html

Related:

- http://www.fayobserver.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter-pipeline-plan-vs-families/article_13fb6499-0197-5d27-b0d3-8d2c48135117.html

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Tim Kaine's Climate Record Is All Over The Map

- Scientific American – 7/25/16

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/tim-kaine-s-climate-record-is-all-over-the-map/>

Mixed feelings across interest groups about Clinton's VP pick

Pipeline Foes Won't Be Silenced

- The News Virginian – 7/27/16

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/pipeline-foes-won-t-be-silenced/article_07d8ac22-5460-11e6-a867-a781a0314b3a.html

Related to above article about the March, but worth a stand-alone spot

Report: Dominion Defends Proposal To Keep Surry Nuclear Facility Online Until 2053

- Utility Dive – 7/26/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/report-dominion-defends-proposal-to-keep-surry-nuclear-facility-online-unt/423252/>

2053?! 80-years of operation?! Though carbon-free generation is a major plus, at some point, safety concerns must be an issue

Big Picture:

As Major Parties Embrace Fracking, Report Shows Natural Gas 'Bridge To Climate Disaster'

- Common Dreams – 7/22/16

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/07/22/major-parties-embrace-fracking-report-shows-natural-gas-bridge-climate-disaster>

Report released by OilChange International and partner groups highlights that increased gas use as a result of Marcellus pipeline build-out will make it impossible for the US to meet its climate goals.

Related:

- <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/07/22/3800752/a-bridge-to-forgetting-paris/>
- <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-climate-pipeline-idUSKCN102118>

Compressor Stations Open Up New Front In Fracking Debate

- Allegheny Front – 7/15/16

<http://www.alleghenyfront.org/compressor-stations-open-up-new-front-in-fracking-debate/>

EPA rules support regional air quality but are not designed for close-range pollutant exposure

Eminent Domain Is Becoming A Crucial, Controversial Part Of The Gas Pipeline Boom

- Allegheny Front – 7/22/16

<http://www.alleghenyfront.org/eminent-domain-is-becoming-a-crucial-controversial-part-of-the-gas-pipeline-boom/>

More and more, the wholesale granting of eminent domain power to private companies is being challenged...this is going to come to a head at some point

Power Plants, Happy With High Electric Rates, Fight Natural Gas Expansion

- Environmental Defense Fund – 7/14/16

<http://www.pressherald.com/2016/07/24/power-plants-happy-with-high-electric-rates-fight-natural-gas-expansion/>

Another side of the Access Northeast controversy...either way, ratepayers should not pay for pipeline capacity that they are not actively *using*...300+ days per year

Related:

- <http://canadafreepress.com/article/new-england-imports-lng-in-lieu-of-building-pipelines>
- <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/07/25/pseg-files-with-ferc-to-stop-pipeline-expansion-project-in-new-england/>

FERC Issues Draft EIS For PennEast Pipeline Despite Missing Data, Intense Opposition And Disputed Need For The Project

- PR newswire – 7/22/16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ferc-issues-draft-eis-for-penneast-pipeline-despite-missing-data-intense-opposition-and-disputed-need-for-the-project-300302769.html>

This sounds all too familiar, but Dominion hasn't pushed it through *yet*

Related:

- <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/16/07/24/federal-agency-says-penneast-environmental-impacts-could-be-reduced/>
- http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2016/07/impact_statement_on_penneast_p.html

FERC extends Constitution Pipeline construction 2 more years

- Utility Dive – 7/28/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/ferc-extends-constitution-pipeline-construction-2-more-years/423427/>

Constitution still fighting to construct its pipeline...FERC seems amenable...NY's withholding of the 401 CWA permit notwithstanding

Worse Than Keystone XL? TransCanada's Terrifying "Plan B"

- Common Dreams – 7/26/16

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/07/26/worse-keystone-xl-transcanadas-terrifying-plan-b>

Hundreds of new tankers traversing the East Coast transporting tar sands oil...what could *possibly* go wrong?