



ABRA Update #97 – September 15, 2016

New Study Concludes ACP & MVP Are Not Needed

A new study on the mid-Atlantic's demand for natural gas, released September 12, concludes that the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines are not needed and that the existing natural gas transmission infrastructure can supply more than enough fuel to power the region through 2030. The study – *Are the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline Necessary?* – was conducted by Synapse Energy Economics of Cambridge Massachusetts and commissioned by the Southern Environmental Law Center and Appalachian Mountain Advocates, two member organizations of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. The report was unveiled at a press conference in Afton, VA on September 12.

Among major points in the study are:

- The Mid-Atlantic region's projected demand for energy can be met by the existing network of pipelines with some modest upgrades.
- Additional interstate natural gas pipelines, like the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley projects, are not needed to keep the lights on, homes and businesses heated, and existing and new industrial facilities in production.
- The proposed projects would be financially beneficial to utility companies and investors, but would burden customers with higher utility bills to cover the costs of construction.

The Synapse study and press release, and a related new story map, *The Atlantic Coast Pipeline: A Question of Need*, are available on the [ABRA website home page](#).

DPMC Implores Virginia to Fulfill Its Responsibilities to Protect Water

The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition (DPMC) strongly expressed its deep concerns over the failure of Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to exercise its authority to review the water quality impacts of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). In a September 9 letter to Virginia Governor McAuliffe, DPMC's David Sligh wrote:

We are raising an alarm - that Virginia's responsibility to provide appropriate protections under Clean Water Act ("CWA") Section 401 and state laws may be forfeited if you have not taken certain actions before September 16, 2016. Failure to meet this deadline would constitute a serious breach of the trust the public has placed in you. Therefore, we ask for immediate action to prevent this dire result.

Keep on top of new developments. Visit and like us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/abralliance/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – Lew Freeman, lewfreeman@gmail.com

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

The DPMC had – in April and again in June – written to Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources Angela Navarro and address Virginia’s role in the CWA process. Finally, on August 23, Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Ward provided a one sentence response:

Regarding your question on the Clean Water Act Section 401 review, DEQ is currently evaluating the scope of its authority under FERC requirements for this review.

Dominion had submitted its request for a water quality certification from Virginia for the ACP on September 15, 2015, which was received by the state the following day. The DPMC letter to the Governor and the earlier referenced correspondence is available [here](#).

Since the DPMC letter to the Governor, Deputy Secretary Navarro provided assurances on September 14 that the DEQ will not abdicate its responsibilities to conduct a Section 401 review. For more, see the Recorder story below (“Coalition pressures state”).

Mark Your Calendar

PIPELINE SUMMIT, Saturday, November 12, 2016
Natural Bridge Hotel, Natural Bridge, VA (20 min. south of Lexington, VA)

Co-sponsored by ABRA and the POWHR Coalition

Program & Registration Information to be announced soon

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Coalition pressures state to deny Dominion permit

- The Recorder – 9/15/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Coalition_pressures_state_to_deny_Dominion_permit-Recorder_9-15-16.pdf

For more information see <http://pipelineupdate.org>

Report: Proposed Interstate Natural Gas Pipelines Not Needed

- NBC 29 News – 9/12/16

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/33074084/report-proposed-interstate-natural-gas-pipelines-not-needed>

3RD-Party energy experts say ACP & MVP benefit utilities not citizens

Related:

- http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/state/new-study-says-atlantic-coast-and-mountain-valley-pipelines-not/article_77ca45aa-793f-11e6-b995-1b4039db5200.html

- <http://www.energyglobal.com/pipelines/project-news/13092016/New-study-stirs-Virginia-pipeline-controversy/>

- <http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2016/09/13/study-concludes-atlantic-coast-pipeline-unnecessary/90296090/>

In-service date delayed on Atlantic Coast Pipeline project

- The News and Advance – 9/8/16

http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/in-service-date-delayed-on-atlantic-coast-pipeline-project/article_cf32f548-67eb-5675-add3-6f8c98bb5307.html

Planned pipeline may impact imperiled plants

- The Recorder – 9/15/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Planned_pipeline_may_impact_imperiled_plants-Recorder_9-15-16.pdf
USFS challenges Dominion's assertion that pipeline would likely have no significant effect

Pipeline company fails to find valley karst features

- The Recorder – 9/15/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Pipeline_company_fails_to_find_valley_karst_features-Recorder_9-15-16.pdf
Dominion's surveyor "experts" don't know their task from a hole in the ground!

Additional compressor station unneeded, Dominion says

- The Recorder – 9/15/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Additional_compressor_station_unneeded_Dominion_says-Recorder_9-15-16.pdf

Nelson county residents host rally to show support for Standing Rock Sioux

- WSET 13 News – 9/13/16

<http://wset.com/news/local/nelson-county-residents-host-rally-to-show-support-for-standing-rock-sioux>
Related:
<http://augustafreepress.com/richmonders-protests-dakota-access-pipeline/>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Sissonville pipeline project moving forward

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 9/10/16

<http://www.wvgazettemail.com/news-business/20160910/sissonville-pipeline-project-moving-forward>
"There are at least seven large-diameter pipeline projects, with proposed investments of more than \$16.4 billion, that have been requested from large gas transmission companies like Dominion, EQT Midstream, Energy Transfer and Columbia Pipeline Group.

The capacity in those pipelines alone will be able to handle around **four times the amount of gas that was produced in the entire state in 2014**, according to West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection data."

- Yet somehow, all are considered "necessary and convenient"!

Mountain Valley Pipeline acquires easements from regional residents for natural gas transmission pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 9/11/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/franklin_county/mountain-valley-pipeline-acquires-easements-from-regional-residents-for-natural/article_f48ab77e-e954-5943-917f-d3f07f3c13f5.html

Belleville: Virginia's energy future

- Roanoke Times – 9/11/16

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/belleville-virginia-s-energy-future/article_e5fd502e-f85a-50d7-9012-4af85e450594.html

Virginia, vastly outpaced by its neighbors in the race for the New Energy Economy, needs a reality check

Congressmen seek mixed format for pipeline meetings

- Roanoke Times – 9/8/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/congressmen-seek-mixed-format-for-pipeline-meetings/article_8a3457e4-c8e5-5e01-a788-11f3b93b8bee.html

Big Picture:

The Dakota Access Pipeline Is An Example Of A Much Bigger Problem

- Huffington Post – 9/14/16

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/dakota-access-pipeline-protests-water_us_57d85a51e4b0aa4b722d12b1?section=&

Related:

- https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09092016/energy-transfer-dakota-access-oil-pipeline-construction-standing-rock-sioux-tribes-obama-administration?utm_source=Inside+Climate+News&utm_campaign=ofe865dof6-InsideClimate+News12_10_2014&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-ofe865dof6-326464089
- <http://www.platts.com/latest-news/natural-gas/houston/decision-to-delay-dakota-access-construction-21510925>

Energy Expert Report, Ratepayer Advocate Agency Invalidate Alleged Need for PennEast, Challenge Pipeline's Failure to Examine Viable Alternatives

- PR News Wire – 9/13/16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/energy-expert-report-ratepayer-advocate-agency-invalidate-alleged-need-for-penneast-challenge-pipelines-failure-to-examine-viable-alternatives-300327139.html>

Similar to ACP/MVP, PennEast found unnecessary by 3rd-party experts

Related:

- <http://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/news/local/hunterdon-county/2016/09/13/penneast-pipeline-opposed-nj-rate-counsel/90306970/>

EPA criticizes FERC, PennEast over pipeline proposal

- Bucks County Courier Times – 9/14/16

http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/news/local/epa-criticizes-ferc-penneast-over-pipeline-proposal/article_a3e66a72-7a9a-11e6-b562-8bb795b49d7d.html

Lack of Alternatives analysis, missing information highlighted

Related:

- <https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2016/09/14/new-jersey-agencies-and-epa-add-critiques-to-penneast-pipeline-project/>

New Nexus pipeline great idea, says man who died in 1998

- Detroit Free Press – 9/12/16

<http://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2016/09/12/new-nexus-pipeline-great-idea-says-man-who-died-1998/90274074/>

Consumer Energy Alliance (CES...remember them?) responsible for hundreds of fraudulent, or at best incorrectly-attributed, letters of support for Nexus pipeline...how many of the 26,000 letters of support for ACP were also fraudulent, incorrect or from dead people?

Southern Wildlife at Risk: Family Forest Owners Offer a Solution

- American Forest Foundation

<https://www.forestfoundation.org/family-forest-owners-solution-at-risk-wildlife>

Family forest owners identified as key conservators of southeastern forests habitat and species

Anti-pipeline Movement Gathers Steam

- Other Words – 9/14/16

<http://otherwords.org/anti-pipeline-movement-gathers-steam/>

FERC Slams Algonquin Pipeline over Serious Violation on the Hudson River

- Peekskill Patch – 9/9/16

<http://patch.com/new-york/peekskill/ferc-slams-algonquin-pipeline-over-serious-violation-hudson-river>

Pretty shocking...Algonquin may get a cease work order on this one

A 'Red Scare' tactic or standing up for ExxonMobil on climate change?

- Washington Post – 9/14/16

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/red-scare-or-exxon-mobil-rescue/2016/09/14/3b772752-7a80-11e6-beac-57a4a412e93a_story.html

Fraud investigations threaten to suppress "scientific inquiry"... Seriously?

SoCalGas reaches \$4.3M settlement for Aliso Canyon methane leak

- Utility Dive – 9/15/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/socalgas-reaches-43m-settlement-for-aliso-canyon-methane-leak/426346/>

Approximately \$0.53/ton of CO2 equivalent...plus evacuations and health issues...sounds a bit short!



JOIN HANDS to protect our land, communities and the **Appalachian Trail** from the unnecessary and unwanted onslaught of natural gas pipelines.

Saturday, September 17 - 10:30 am

Humpback Rocks Farm parking area on the Blue Ridge Parkway at milepost 5.8