



ABRA Update #98 – September 22, 2016

Opinion Poll on New Gas Pipelines: Virginians Oppose Them

Virginians oppose construction of the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines by a 2 to 1 margin, according to a [new statewide public opinion poll](#) released September 21 by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN), an ABRA member. In answer to the question of whether respondents support Governor McAuliffe's efforts to build new natural gas pipelines across Virginia, 55% of respondents said they were opposed while 28% said they supported the new pipelines; 17% had no opinion.

Within the CCAN poll results, noteworthy demographic breakdowns showed that:

- Rural Virginia residents were opposed 61-15%;
- Tidewater residents were opposed 52-29%;
- Men generally were opposed 50-39%, while older men were in support, 45-42%;
- Middle-aged women opposed 71-17%; and
- Republicans opposed 50-38%

The poll also asked whether respondents thought the Governor should support or oppose Dominion Resources' approach to coal ash waste disposal: 14% favored the Dominion plan, while 71% opposed it.

Dominion Releases New Construction Schedule for ACP: More Delay!

Dominion Transmission, Inc. filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory on September 17 an [updated construction schedule](#) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). Under the new plan, construction would begin in November 2017 and be completed in the 4th Quarter of 2019. The new schedule represents a one-year delay from the plans announced by Dominion when it proposed the project in 2014. The new construction schedule includes target dates for commencement and completion of construction for individual sections – by mileposts – of the pipeline. The proposed schedule for construction of the 3 compressor stations calls for two years, November 2017 until the 4th Quarter of 2019.

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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 next week

ACP Contractor Chosen

A construction contract has been signed for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), it was announced on September 21. Spring Ridge Constructors, LLC (SRC), a joint venture of leading natural gas pipeline construction companies. Comprised of Price Gregory International, Inc., a Quanta Services, Inc. (NYSE: PWR) company; U.S. Pipeline, Inc.; SMPC, LLC; and Rockford Corporation, a Primoris Services Corporation (NASDAQ: PRIM) company, the joint venture will serve as the ACP lead construction contractor, according to the [announcement from Dominion Transmission](#). The announcement also stated that “ACP is working with its contractors to evaluate the possibility of bringing on more crews and working on more simultaneous spreads in order to complete construction sooner. This analysis is expected to be finalized over the next few months.”

FERC Releases DEIS for Mountain Valley Pipeline

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) was released September 16 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The 2600+ page document details FERC’s analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed pipeline, based upon the tens of thousands of pages of applicant documents and public comments that have been filed with the agency. In a [joint statement released last week](#) by the POWHR coalition that has been leading the fight against the MVP, along with Appalachian Voices, Virginia Sierra, Appalachian Mountain Advocates and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, FERC was criticized for dismissing clean energy alternatives and failing to properly consider whether new pipelines were actually needed to meet projected natural gas demand. Major gaps in FERC’s analysis, cited in the joint statement, are:

- The core issue of whether the massive project is needed to meet electricity demand, and whether other alternatives including energy efficiency, solar and wind would be more environmentally responsible sources;
- A complete analysis of the cumulative, life-cycle climate pollution that would result from the pipeline;
- Any accounting of other environmental and human health damage from the increased gas fracking in West Virginia that would supply the pipeline; and
- Thorough analysis of damage to water quality and natural resources throughout the pipeline route.

Groups Call for Congressional Review of FERC

More than 180 organizations from throughout the country have called for leaders in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee and House Energy and Commerce Committee to hold congressional hearings into the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) extensive history of bias and abuse. ABRA and several of its members were among the signatories of the [September 21 letter](#). The groups are also requesting reform of the Natural Gas Act, which the groups say, gives too much power to FERC and too little to state and local officials. Specifically, the groups said:

- Hold congressional hearings to learn the many ways communities are being harmed by FERC's implementation of the Natural Gas Act as currently written;
- Take swift affirmative action to reform the Natural Gas Act so as to better protect communities including eliminating the threats associated with natural gas infrastructure; and

Oppose, or at a minimum hold in abeyance, any further advancement of the Energy Policy Modernization Act of 2016 which includes language intended to further "streamline" an already misused, and well streamlined, process for advancing the review and approval of natural gas infrastructure until you have learned, through the hearing requested above, how people's rights, state's rights, and the environment are already being abused under the implementation of the Natural Gas Act and how they will be further harmed by passage of provisions proposed in the new law.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

A Matter of Public Necessity

- Bacon's Rebellion – 9/22/16

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2016/09/a-matter-of-public-necessity.html>

A supposed brief history of how the ACP proposal came to be

Atlantic Coast Pipeline Signs Construction Contract With Spring Ridge Constructors

- PR News Wire – 9/21/16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/atlantic-coast-pipeline-signs-construction-contract-with-spring-ridge-constructors-300331810.html>

Now we know whose construction records to examine!

Virginia Chambers of Commerce coalition backs Atlantic Coast gas pipeline

- Penn Energy – 9/19/16

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/ogj/2016/09/virginia-chambers-of-commerce-coalition-backs-atlantic-coast-gas-pipeline.html>

Widow's appeal of Atlantic Coast Pipeline survey to test property rights amendment before state's highest court

- Roanoke Times – 9/21/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/widow-s-appeal-of-atlantic-coast-pipeline-survey-to-test/article_409172eb-f3ce-5b89-b1e0-4872ebc9695c.html

Bill DeSteph & Frank Wagner: Pipeline will transform Hampton Roads economy

- The Virginian-Pilot – 9/11/16

http://pilotonline.com/opinion/columnist/guest/bill-desteph-frank-wagner-pipeline-will-transform-hampton-roads-economy/article_8e219da3-aadf-5b88-bc18-d59d9ec4481a.html

Dominion's biggest cheerleaders spelling it out for you..."Gimme a 'D'!"

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

FERC draft report calls pipeline's potential impact 'limited'

- Roanoke Times – 9/16/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/ferc-issues-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-mvp/article_8bbd6d2a-83c3-50b0-ac24-2e4e003850dd.html

Related:

- <http://wsls.com/2016/09/16/ferc-issues-environmental-impact-draft-statement-for-mountain-valley-pipeline-project/>

Critics Say Unnecessary Pipelines Will Cost WV Consumers

- Public News Service – 9/19/16

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-09-19/energy-policy/critics-say-unnecessary-pipelines-will-cost-wv-consumers/a54090-1>

Demonstrators protest Mountain Valley Pipeline in Giles County

- WDBJ7 – 9/17/16

<http://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Demonstrators-protest-Mountain-Valley-Pipeline-in-Giles-County-393828661.html>

State agency recommends routing Mountain Valley Pipeline to avoid karst in Montgomery County

- Roanoke Times – 9/15/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/state-agency-recommends-routing-mountain-valley-pipeline-to-avoid-karst/article_d2dbf6de-c014-5f62-8110-a89643ecd72c.html

VADCR may have just kicked the hornets' nest

Big Picture:

Activists eye battles beyond Dakota Access

- Greenwire (E&E Publishing) – 9/19/16

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060043055>

Appalachian pipelines likely next major front in the fight over clean vs. dirty energy

As utilities ramp up gas, Enbridge play for Spectra highlights increasing value of pipelines

- Utility Dive – 9/16/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/as-utilities-ramp-up-gas-enbridge-play-for-spectra-highlights-increasing-v/426419/>

"Pipelines are getting harder to build"...which makes existing ones more valuable

EPA has 'significant concerns' over PennEast project

- The Morning Call – 9/19/16

<http://www.mcall.com/news/breaking/mc-penn-east-epa-concerns-20160919-story.html>

Serious omissions in submitted studies cited

Pipeline Wars: Delco protesters stand in solidarity with North Dakota tribes

- Daily times News – 9/21/16
<http://www.delcotimes.com/article/DC/20160921/NEWS/160929917>
Segmentation strategy and social justice issues common to many pipeline projects

As Dakota Access Protests Escalated, Obama Admin OK'd Same Company for Two Pipelines to Mexico

- DeSmog – 9/20/16
<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/09/20/dakota-access-obama-mexico-fracked-gas-energy-transfer-partners>
Is the Dakota Access construction stay merely slight-of-hand?

Editorial: Stand with Standing Rock Sioux tribe

- Iowa State Daily – 9/18/16
http://www.iowastatedaily.com/opinion/editorials/article_9c1e9c66-7d37-11e6-82dd-1ff633ad4cfb.html
It's about more than oil, jobs, the environment and private property rights

Algonquin Apologizes to FERC for Disturbing Wetlands During AIM Project Work

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 9/12/16
http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Algonquin_Apologizes_to_FERC_for_Disturbing_Wetlands_20160921.pdf
Claims miscommunication with FERC compliance monitor

Energy policies of the presidential candidates debated

- Power Source – 9/21/16
<http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/policy-powersource/2016/09/21/Energy-policies-of-the-presidential-candidates-debated/stories/201609210127>
Both candidates essentially pro-gas but entertain limits on fracking