



ABRA Update #100 – October 7, 2016

Pipeline Summit: More Agenda Items and Speakers Announced

Jane Kleeb, President and Founder of Bold Alliance, will be a featured speaker at the November 12 Pipeline Summit at Natural Bridge, VA. Ms. Kleeb, who was a leader in the successful fight against the XL Pipeline, spoke at the April 23 Pipeline Summit in Weyer's Cave, VA.

Four breakout discussion groups will highlight the afternoon session of the Summit:

- **Why new pipelines are unnecessary!** – led by former utility executive Thomas Hadwin
- **Improving effectiveness in coalition and grassroots** – co-led by Kate Boyle, Director of Campaigns, Appalachian Voices
- **Water Resources and Geohazard Issues** – led by Rick Webb, Program Coordinator, Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition
- **FERC's Environmental Review Process** – led by Joe Lovett, Executive Director, Appalachian Mountain Advocates

Other Summit speakers who have been announced are:

- Kate Addelson, Director, Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, who will join the morning panel to discuss **The Impact of the 2016 Election Results**
- Richard Averitt, CEO of Digital ReLab and a Nelson County, VA landowner adversely impacted by the ACP route, will participate in **The Need for Property Rights and Eminent Domain Reform** panel discussion, which will be in the morning session.

To register for the Summit, [click here](#). For those wishing accommodations at the Natural Bridge Hotel for the preceding evening (November 11), a rate of \$79 is available. For hotel reservations, call 800.533.1410 x 0 or 7803 and make a reservation under Code: AlleghenyBlue Ridge Alliance for Friday, November 11, 2016.



Averitt



Kleeb



Webb



Addelson



Hadwin



Boyle

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

NFS Expresses Concerns Over ACP Geohazard and Biological Analyses

Shortcomings in the biological evaluation (BE) and geohazard analyses for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) filed by Dominion were expressed in filings by the National Forest Service (NFS) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on September 30. Some examples of the NFS concerns:

- The ACP filing about landslides “mischaracterizes the hazard of shallow landslides and underestimates the threat to the pipeline”;
- The potential impact for the pipeline and project facilities, including access roads, on slope instability is not addressed;
- The purpose of a BE is to assess the potential impacts of a project on Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species. This document contains a great deal of extraneous material not relevant to a BE;
- Required improvements of access roads need to be described on a site-specific basis for each access road, particularly any areas that require widening or other disturbance of vegetation, rock, or soil. Detailed maps of the proposed access roads (permanent and temporary), construction methods of new and improvements of existing roads and reports of all biological surveys for these sites must be provided for this aspect of the project. Site-specific effects must be analyzed in the BE. Such detail is required to assess impacts to sensitive species located adjacent to or near these roads;
- Finally, the NSF admonishes Dominion to “Spellcheck the entire document.”

The NFS comments on the geohazard analyses are available [here](#); the BE comments are available [here](#).

Consumer’s Union Criticizes Dominion’s Integrated Resource Plan

Dominion Virginia Power’s Integrated Resource Plan (2016 IRP) that was filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) does not meet “the standard of ensuring the lowest possible cost for its customers,” according to a [September 28 letter](#) sent to the SCC by Consumer’s Union (CU), publisher of *Consumer Reports*. The letter further states that Dominion’s Plan “presents an unrealistically high-cost approach to comply with a Clean Power Plan that several analyses . . . show can be met, and even exceeded, at far lower cost to consumers.” CU cited three primary deficiencies in Dominion’s 2016 IRP filing:

1. Consideration of energy efficiency as the lowest-cost means of complying with the Clean Power Plan is insufficient;
2. The 2016 IRP appears to intentionally exclude and gloss over lower-cost imports of cheaper and cleaner power from out of state. Dominion proposes to eventually become a net exporter of energy, a fundamental shift in Virginia that deserves a high degree of scrutiny from the Commission; and
3. Dominion’s unjustifiably stratospheric “integration cost” of solar is entirely unreasonable and appears to cast a unnaturally favorable light on the addition of natural gas generation.

CU recently conducted a survey of Virginians to gauge their awareness of and support for several important electricity issues. Among the results:

- 90% of Virginia ratepayers try to lower their electric bills by conserving electricity;
- 92% of Virginians agree that a utility provider should make sure it is using existing energy sources efficiently before building a new power plant.
- Dominion customers rate the utility more negatively than positively for cost of electric bills, options or programs for lowering electric bills, and investments in renewable energy.

CCAN Leads Richmond Demonstrations on Pipelines, Coal Ash



The Chesapeake Climate Action Alliance led three days of demonstrations in Richmond on October 3-5 on Governor McAuliffe's policies on pipelines, toxic coal ash, and rising sea levels driven by global warming.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

23 Arrested Protesting McAuliffe's "Stunning Lack of Political Courage" on Climate

- Common Dreams – 10/6/16

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2016/10/06/23-arrested-protesting-mcauliffes-stunning-lack-political-courage-climate>

Opposition ponies up, while McAuliffe ducks out the back door

Related:

- <http://www.whsv.com/content/news/Valley-pipeline-protestors-react-those-arrested-in-Richmond-396101391.html>
- <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2016/oct/virginia-pollution-protest>
- http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/mcwhorter-and-tidwell-mcauliffe-s-not-my-problem-approach-to/article_53128fbb-5394-5b22-b79a-de9ca1814b95.html

Pipeline company revisits karst

- The Recorder – 10/6/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Pipeline_company_revisits_karst-Recorder_20161006.pdf

Letter to FERC Raises Concerns Over Alternate Route for Proposed Pipeline

- NBC29 News – 10/4/16

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/33315560/letter-to-ferc-raises-concerns-over-alternate-route-for-proposed-pipeline>

Spruce Creek variation in play again in Nelson County

[LINK TO LETTER](#)

Related:

<http://www.nbc29.com/story/33316150/petition-threatens-class-action-lawsuit-against-dominion>

Bart Hinkle: Pipeline brings a property-rights fight to Virginia

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 10/1/16

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/our-opinion/bart-hinkle/article_065652f4-ae9d-5894-971a-5dc3940440e2.html

Virginia's property protection legislation about to face a significant test

Opposition to Atlantic Coast Pipeline Heats Up

- NPR WMRA – 10/3/16

<http://wmra.org/post/opposition-atlantic-coast-pipeline-heats>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

WV Supreme Court to hear Monroe pipeline appeal

- The Register-Herald – 10/7/16

http://www.register-herald.com/news/supreme-court-to-hear-monroe-pipeline-appeal/article_5259d194-d7d4-52d6-bde9-60a0ddff625f.html

Goodlatte campaign rebuffs charge of conflict related to pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 9/30/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/goodlatte-campaign-rebuffs-charge-of-conflict-related-to-pipeline/article_fbe55606-8568-5f31-9469-72b48080cef8.html

Pipeline issue now front and center in Congressional District 6 race for U.S. House of Representatives

Related:

- <http://augustafreepress.com/degner-goodlatte-directly-profits-eminent-domain-mountain-valley-pipeline/>

- http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/editorials/editorial-degner-s-pipeline-charge-against-goodlatte-is-off-base/article_1ace1064-8b52-11e6-89a6-470c8d87dd2c.html

Eminent Domain and Environmental Concerns Atop List for Group Opposed to Mountain Valley Pipeline

- WJAR News – 9/30/16

<http://wjnr.com/eminant-domain-and-environmental-concerns-atop-list-for-group-opposed-to-mountain-valley-pipeline/>

Big Picture:

European Union Ratification Pushes Paris Agreement into Effect

- National Geographic – 10/6/16

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2016/10/06/european-union-ratification-pushes-paris-agreement-into-effect/>

Environmental accord will take effect much earlier than many predicted

Related:

- <http://www.voanews.com/a/paris-agreement-on-climate-change-to-take-effect-november-4/3538480.html>

- <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2016/10/6/1578557/-Paris-climate-agreement-gets-real-Count-on-Republicans-to-try-everything-they-can-to-undermine-it>

Republicans Can Understand Science and Still Deny Climate Change

- The Atlantic – 10/5/16

<http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/10/republicans-can-understand-science-and-still-deny-climate-change/503003/>

We are not picking sides or suggesting votes...this and the following are simply interesting and potentially useful Related:

- <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/10/04/the-politics-of-climate/>
- <http://www.pewinternet.org/2016/10/04/public-views-on-climate-change-and-climate-scientists/>

It's Time to Align Trade Deals With The Paris Climate Agreement

- Huffington post – 10/6/16

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ilana-solomon/its-time-to-align-trade-d_b_12375814.html

Trump may have a point on this issue...though not at all the one that he expects

As pipeline projects grow, so do protests

- PBS News Hour – 10/1/16

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/pipelines-proliferate-protests/>

Good background piece to share with the uninitiated...focuses on eminent domain and environmental issues, highlights a number of projects outside the area

Related:

- <http://www.caller.com/news/energy-effects/pipelines-spur-protest-in-n-dakota-west-texas-3dbe3279-22fd-1cc3-e053-0100007fcf00-395494371.html>

Let's fix pipeline review steps

- The Recorder – 10/5/16

<http://www.recorder.com/Fixing-FERC-5169753>

Trump may have a point on this issue...though not at all the one that he expects

Fossil fuel industry's methane emissions far higher than thought

- The Guardian – 10/5/16

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/oct/05/fossil-fuel-industrys-methane-emissions-far-higher-than-thought>

Study shows fossil fuel industry's emissions much higher than thought...though not increasing

Related:

- <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/2016/1006/Methane-methane-everywhere-More-comes-from-fossil-fuels>
- <http://nature.com/articles/doi:10.1038/nature19797>

DiCaprio climate change film 'Before the Flood' debuts as Hurricane Matthew looms

- Miami Herald – 10/5/16

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/environment/article106274422.html#storylink=cpy>

Can you say "Timely Metaphor"?

Related;

- http://www.abralliance.org/wp_content/uploads/2016/10/Obama_Gives_Sober_Assessment_of_Climate_Change_Defends_Natural_Gas_20161004.pdf