



ABRA Update #104 – November 3, 2016

Bath County Landowners Demand Water Quality Assurances From ACP

Nearly 70 landowners in northern Bath County, VA have expressed deep concerns about the threat that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline presents to their water supplies. In an [October 31 letter](#) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and sent to Dominion Resources, the landowners stated:

We believe that the 500-foot testing limit proposed by The Atlantic Coast Pipeline for assessing damages to wells and springs from construction and maintenance of the pipeline, access roads, and supporting structures in karst bedrock is unrealistic, and not based on sound scientific evidence. Sound scientific evidence clearly shows that due to the fragile nature of underground water channels and the interaction between surface waters and groundwaters due to sinking springs and other surface waters in karst soils that springs or wells far from the proposed pipeline are likely to be contaminated, diminished, or stopped completely from construction and maintenance activity, including blasting, the discharge of pollutants, and the spraying of herbicides.

Continuing, the landowners' letter demands that "comprehensive water quality and water quantity assessments" be completed "within one year prior to any construction activity for the pipeline, during the construction of the pipeline, 3 months after construction of the pipeline, and once per year for 5 years following completion of the pipeline, and within 1 month of any herbicide application." The letter also demands that the ACP develop a mitigation plan for each affected locality should a private well or spring become polluted.

Pipeline Summit Pre-Registration Strong; Complete Agenda Available

Pre-registrations for the November 12 Pipeline Summit have already exceeded the number of attendees at the first Summit held last April in Weyers Cave. This month's event is again co-sponsored by the ABRA and the POWHR coalition and being held at the Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center (Exits 175 and 180A on I-81, 20 minutes south of Lexington, VA). The full agenda for the Summit is now available on the [ABRA website](#).

Registrations will be accepted on-site, but if you pre-register by November 7 it assures that: you have access to background materials before the Summit, your name appears on the registration list, your name tag will be ready when you arrive and you don't have to write it in your own handwriting (!) and that your dietary preferences for lunch, if any, can be accommodated. To register, [click here](#). Don't dally!!

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

Industry Study Warned of Threats to Pipeline Integrity

A study issued in April 2016 by the INGAA Foundation, an arm of the natural gas transmission industry, stated that “land movement, particularly in variable, steep, and rugged terrain, can pose a threat to the integrity of a pipeline if those threats are not mitigated. [Mitigation of Land Movement in Steep and Rugged Terrain for Pipeline Projects: Lessons Learned from Constructing Pipelines in West Virginia](#) was prepared, “to educate and inform those in the pipeline industry about the threats of land movement and outline practical mitigative measures.” It was [filed with FERC on October 31](#), though not by INGAA.

The study identifies number of critical items when mitigating land movement on pipeline rights of way (ROW), including:

- The importance of identifying landslide and erosion hazards, and incorporating that information into the design, planning and construction phases of a project;
- The critical role of route selection in identifying and avoiding hazards that may impact pipelines and ROWs;
- The need to incorporate site-specific mitigation measures into the project planning process, to address threats to the pipeline and the ROW;
- The association between land movement and surface and subsurface water in combination with changes in the local ground conditions from recent or historical changes in geologic conditions and/or construction-related activities;
- Structural measures are also available to address unstable slopes, such as retaining walls, soldier piles, sheet piles, wire mesh systems, mechanically stabilized earth systems and other mechanical structures;
- Consideration of the landslide and erosion processes, and the origin of the source(s) of water relative to the constructed pipeline ROW.

The susceptibility of landslides along the ACP route was highlighted in an August 23 filing with FERC by Dominion Transmission, Inc. in response to questions posed by the agency regarding potential disruption and harm that could occur within the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests. One of the pieces of information filed by Dominion was that the susceptibility to landslides along the ACP route through the National Forests is 98%, 33% of the route being categorized as having a Medium to High susceptibility for landslide incidences, and 65% of the route being estimated as having a High (or greater) susceptibility. For more on this, see [ABRA Update 94](#) (August 25, 2016, article at the top of page 2).

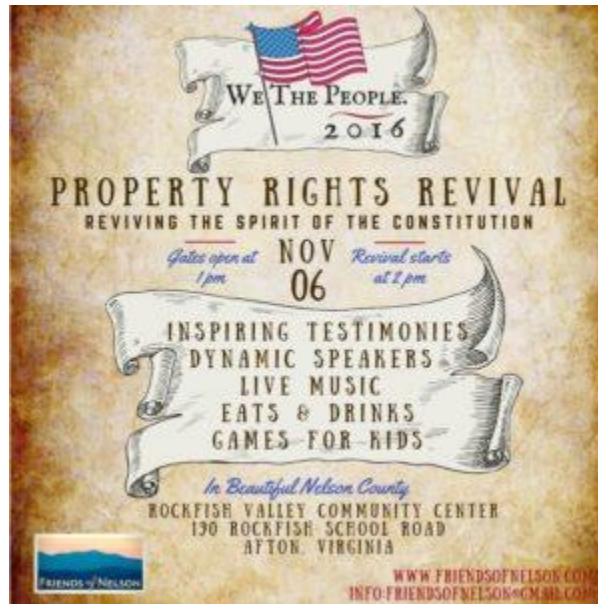
ABRA Welcomes 51st Member

Citizens of South Rockfish Valley is the newest member of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance, our 51st member. In one of the new group’s recent actions, it sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in early October, signed by 100 persons, expressing concerns about the Spruce Creek Variation route proposed for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Nelson County, VA. More information on that is available at <http://www.nbc29.com/story/33315560/letter-to-ferc-raises-concerns-over-alternate-route-for-proposed-pipeline>. Principal contact for Citizens of South Rockfish Valley is Colin Winter, colin.winter@yahoo.com.

“Property Rights Revival” To Be Held November 6

Friends of Nelson is hosting the first ever Property Rights Revival in Nelson County on Sunday, November 6, 2016, under a big tent outside the Rockfish Valley Community Center. The revival will feature “testimony” from property owners along the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline from Bath, Augusta, Nelson and Buckingham Counties, among others. “We want to show that many property owners throughout the route feel deeply violated by Dominion’s plans for their property and give them a chance to speak for themselves,” says Joanna Salidis, of Friends of Nelson.

Gates open at 1 pm, the Revival begins at 2 pm. More details at <http://friendsofnelson.com/>.



In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Agency echoes local, forest service pipeline project worries

- The Recorder – 11/03/16
http://www.abralliance.org/wp_content/uploads/2016/11/Agency_echoes_local_forest_service_pipeline_project_worries-Recorder_20161103.pdf
 FEREC sends Dominion back to the drawing board...again

Anti-pipeline group to hold property rights revival Sunday at RVCC

- Nelson County Times – 11/2/16
http://www.newsadvance.com/nelson_county_times/news/anti-pipeline-group-to-hold-property-rights-revival-sunday-at/article_48c1010a-a116-11e6-94f5-8bb7ec915999.html

Help Friends of Water Deliver Supplies to Standing Rock Camp

- Crowdwise
<https://www.crowdrise.com/help-friends-of-water-deliver-supplies-to-standing-rock-camp/fundraiser/chrishale2>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Watchdogs fear Forest Service amendments could yield regional 'pipeline alley'

- Roanoke Times – 11/1/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/watchdogs-fear-forest-service-amendments-could-yield-regional-pipeline-alley/article_6c1b5778-7deb-5ba0-a33b-4e44bf23af8e.html

Forest Management Plan requirements could increasingly threaten private property and nearby communities

Zoecklein: More questions and answers about the pipeline (part 2)

- Roanoke Times – 10/30/16

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/zoecklein-more-questions-and-answers-about-the-pipeline/article_fae4dfc5-bcb9-5149-8479-9e7237219051.html

Gas-fired power plant proposed for Charles City County

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 10/31/16

http://www.richmond.com/business/article_6078be49-0275-549a-801b-b1709d6dbef9.html

And it's not Dominion!

WGL Holdings (WGL) Unit Takes 3% Stake in Mountain Valley Pipeline

- StreetInsider – 10/31/16

[http://www.streetinsider.com/Corporate+News/WGL+Holdings+\(WGL\)+Unit+Takes+3%25+Stake+in+Mountain+Valley+Pipeline/12184351.html](http://www.streetinsider.com/Corporate+News/WGL+Holdings+(WGL)+Unit+Takes+3%25+Stake+in+Mountain+Valley+Pipeline/12184351.html)

Loudoun Officials Caught Off-Guard by Dominion's New Compressor Expansion Plans

- DC Media Group – 10/27/16

<http://www.dcmediagroup.us/2016/10/27/loudoun-officials-caught-off-guard-dominions-new-compressor-expansion-plans/>

Another instance of Dominion saying one thing and doing whatever it wants later

Environmental groups rally in opposition to Dominion's expansion plans at Loudoun Compressor Station

- Loudon times-Mirror – 10/27/16

http://www.loudontimes.com/news/article/environmental_groups_rally_in_opposition_to_dominions_expansion_plans_at_lo

Big Picture:

Exposed: Husband of FERC Official Responsible for Reviewing New Spectra Energy Pipelines Consults For Spectra on Related Project

- DeSmog – 11/1/16

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/11/1/exposed-husband-ferc-official-responsible-reviewing-new-spectra-energy-pipelines-consults-spectra-related-project>

Another instance of conflict of interest at FERC...when will this be stopped?

A new front emerges in the battle against eminent domain

- State Impact PA – 10/31/16

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2016/10/31/a-new-front-emerges-in-the-battle-against-eminent-domain/>

In striking down eminent domain for NG storage, PA may have left an opening against pipelines as well

Gas pipeline project dealt new blow by Conn.

- Providence Journal – 10/30/16

<http://www.providencejournal.com/news/20161030/gas-pipeline-project-dealt-new-blow-by-conn>

Access northeast *should* now be dead, having lost 84% of its capacity commitments, but National Grid vows to keep searching for a solution

Related:

- <http://wshu.org/post/energy-decision-places-renewable-projects-over-gas-pipelines>

Spectra Gas Pipeline Days From Operation

- The Highlands Current – 10/28/16

<http://highlandscurrent.com/2016/10/28/spectra-gas-pipeline-days-operation/>

Project foes target FERC

- Niagara Gazette – 10/31/16

http://www.niagara-gazette.com/news/local_news/project-foes-target-ferc/article_86900af8-66c9-5ef2-b5dd-617e3421b5a6.html

Push to reform FERC gaining steam and proponents

Renewable energy growth accelerating, says International Energy Agency

- Green Car Reports – 11/2/16

http://www.greencarreports.com/news/1107036_renewable-energy-growth-accelerating-says-international-energy-agency

Peak Renewable Energy Investment Seen Holding Back Climate Fight

- Bloomberg – 11/2/16

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-11-02/peak-renewable-energy-investment-seen-holding-back-climate-fight>

Capacity is growing, investment is not, falling far short of what is necessary to meet climate goals

We Don't Need a 'War' on Climate Change, We Need a Revolution

- The New York Times - 10/31/16

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/31/opinion/we-dont-need-a-war-on-climate-change-we-need-a-revolution.html?_r=0

A focus on human solutions and social justice would help re-frame the problem from simply a target at which to aim new technologies