



ABRA Update #108 – December 9, 2016

Dominion Shares – and Withholds – More Information About ACP Route

Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) has responded to a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) request for updated information on the number of land parcels and acreage (temporary and permanent) required for construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), as well as indicating the amount of those parcels that are “within or collocated with existing rights-of-way). The information is contained in a [December 8 filing with FERC](#). DTI was also asked by FERC (in a November 23 request) for the number and percentage of land parcels and acres for which the ACP has easements. DTI’s response to that request was classified as “privileged” and thus not available to the public.

The DTI information that has been made available to the public indicates the land parcels that would be crossed by the pipeline facilities along the ACP totaled 2,735, 8% of which would be collocated. Impacted acreage would be 9,000 temporary and 4,500 permanent. The GWNF 6 alternative route (through the middle of Pocahontas County, into Highland and Bath Counties and up the Deerfield Valley portion of Augusta County) would cross 254 parcels, 3% of which would be collocated. Impacted acreage would be 1600 acres temporary, 847 permanent.

In the filing, DTI also addressed FERC’s request for a response to an issue raised by Pocahontas County, WV resident Richard Laska about the number of compressor stations being proposed for the ACP. Laska questioned whether DTI planned for more than 3 compressor facilities for the ACP, given its 600-mile length. DTI stated:

The appropriate location of these and the third compression facility for ACP has been determined by a variety of factors, including not only the distance between stations, but also the overall drop in elevation relevant to this project, the chosen pipeline diameter, and relative pressure requirements at specific ACP receipt and delivery points.

When Will the DEIS Be Released for the ACP?

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is scheduled to be released sometime this month, per the schedule previously released by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The release could be today, next week or the end of the month. However, in anticipation of the DEIS release, a special ABRA committee has begun work on developing our response. In a meeting this week, the committee established teams to develop specific plans for technical/legal review, communications and grassroots. More details on those plans will be forthcoming soon.

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

EDF Raises Concern Over Utility Affiliate Relationships in Pipeline Projects

The funding of new pipeline capacity by pipeline developers and regulated utilities that are part of the same corporate group has been raised as a concern by the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). In a [November 29 letter](#) to the New York State Public Utility Commission (NYPUC), EDF cited the fact that the Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (Con Ed) had entered into an agreement with the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) for gas transportation services without disclosing to NYPUC that it was in fact a part owner of the MVP. EDF went on to point out that such a “financial construct suggests a shifting of the balance of risks and benefits as between retail ratepayers and Con Ed shareholders which is relevant to the Commission’s review of the contract.” Continuing, EDF said that “New York statutes and case law establish a strong policy in favor of disclosure and transparency regarding the filing of contracts, including those involving affiliates” and that in such circumstances a company like Con Ed should “provide advance notice to the Commission and obtain Commission approval to initiate negotiations as among affiliates. . .”

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Slippery slopes

- The Recorder – 12/8/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Slippery_Slopes-Recorder20161208.pdf

If Dominion can force VOF to accept easement conversions for the ACP, that’s basically all she wrote for the idea of conservation in perpetuity in Virginia...any possibly elsewhere

ACP, station not needed or wanted

- The Farmville Herald – 12/8/16

<http://www.farmvilleherald.com/2016/12/acp-station-not-needed-or-wanted/>

High job demand at pipeline construction expo

- News Leader – 12/8/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2016/12/08/high-job-demand-pipeline-construction-expo/95135934/>

Info fair draws in excess of 200 looking for opportunity with the ACP project

Foundation clarifies position on easements

- The Recorder – 12/8/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Foundation_clarifies_position_on_easements-Recorder_20161208.pdf

Opinion/Letter: Pipeline poll wasn't exactly objective

- The Daily Progress – 12/6/16

http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-letter-pipeline-poll-wasn-t-exactly-objective/article_db87d334-bbff-11e6-9eb3-6f6c2a3dc43c.html

Pipeline opponents find hope in Standing Rock decision

- News Leader – 12/5/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2016/12/05/pipeline-opponents-find-hope-standing-rock-decision/94989562/>

Concerted opposition has stopped DAPL for now...could ACP be next?

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

FERC's Pipeline Impact Statement Full of Errors, say Environmental Groups

- WVTF Public Radio – 12/7/16

<http://wvtf.org/post/ferc-s-pipeline-impact-statement-full-errors-say-environmental-groups#stream/0>
Appalachian Trail Conservancy extremely troubled by statement omissions, misrepresentations

Local activists urge banks to divest from Dakota pipeline project

- Roanoke Times – 12/4/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/local-activists-urge-banks-to-divest-from-dakota-pipeline-project/article_b7c85078-8416-54c4-9762-369d2a0b36a2.html
Locals aim to “defund” DAPL project via its financial backers

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suspends Dominion permit involving reactor at North Anna

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 12/5/16

http://www.richmond.com/business/local/article_d88993c6-c764-54e6-90f4-0116b8764562.html
We may yet escape paying \$8obillion for 1GW of electricity...here's hoping!

Big Picture:

Trump Picks Scott Pruitt, Climate Change Denialist, to Lead E.P.A.

- New York Times – 12/7/16

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/07/us/politics/scott-pruitt-epa-trump.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news&r=0>

Mr. Pruitt, a Republican, has been a key architect of the legal battle against Mr. Obama's climate change policies

Related:

- <http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/08/politics/senate-democrats-trump-epa-scott-pruitt/>
- <http://www.politico.com/story/2016/12/white-house-trump-climate-change-232374>

Protesters Gain Victory in Fight Over Dakota Access Oil Pipeline

- New York Times – 12/4/16

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/04/us/federal-officials-to-explore-different-route-for-dakota-pipeline.html?smprod=nytcore-ipad&smid=nytcore-ipad-share>

US Army Corps of Engineers suspends river crossing permit for DAPL...will undertake thorough environmental review and examine alternative routes

Related:

- <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/whats-long-term-outlook-dakota-access-pipeline/>
- <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-12-04/u-s-army-corps-of-engineers-denies-dakota-access-pipe-permit>

"People's Hearing" Demands Oversight of FERC for Allegedly Rubber-stamping Pipeline and Gas Projects

- DeSmog – 12/7/16

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2016/12/07/people-s-hearing-demands-oversight-ferc-allegedly-rubber-stamping-pipeline-and-gas-projects>

FERC heavily biased toward facilitating actions if the industry it supposedly regulates...who's looking out for citizen interests?

Related:

- <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-12-08/energy-policy/pipeline-regulator-accused-of-bias-being-too-close-to-industry/a55290-1>

Warning: Unnecessary Pipelines Could Leave Consumers Holding the Bag

- Environmental Defense Fund – 12/7/16

http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2016/12/07/warning-unnecessary-pipelines-could-leave-consumers-holding-the-bag/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+EnergyExchange+%28Energy+Exchange%29

An explanation of the self-dealing in pipeline project development today, and why it's a problem...a good one to share with those who don't yet get it

Hopewell wants antitrust investigation of PennEast pipeline

- NJ.com – 12/6/16

http://www.nj.com/mercer/index.ssf/2016/12/hopewell_tells_feds_to_probe_penneast_antitrust_co.html

Town aiming to address potential violation of antitrust laws inherent in pipeline's corporate structure

Related:

- <http://mercerme.com/groups-show-penneasts-latest-claims-as-desperate-attempt-to-give-pipeline-a-purpose/>

New U.S. border-crossing pipelines bring shale gas to more regions in Mexico

- Forbes – Tech – 12/1/16

<https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=28972>

Great news, since our government will do little over the next few years

Related:

- <http://www.cnn.com/2016/12/03/natural-gas-is-something-mexico-us-can-agree-on-as-capacity-soars.html>

Survey Finds GOP Voters Overwhelmingly Favor Renewables, Clean Energy

- Public News Service – 12/9/16

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-12-09/global-warming-air-quality/survey-finds-gop-voters-overwhelmingly-favor-renewables-clean-energy/a55317-1>

Glimmers of hope from the other side of the fence

Google Says It Will Run Entirely on Renewable Energy in 2017

- New York Times – 12/6/16

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/06/technology/google-says-it-will-run-entirely-on-renewable-energy-in-2017.html?_r=0

Last year, Google used as much electricity as a city of 280,000...the equivalent of two 500MW fossil-fueled power plants...next year all of that will come from renewables