



ABRA Update #112 – January 12, 2017

New ACP Information Filed on Geohazards, Forest Fragmentation, HDD

Dominion Transmission Inc. (DTI) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on [January 10 supplemental information](#) on several aspects of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), including: 1) revised site specific design drawings on geohazard mitigation, 2) an update on forest fragmentation analysis, 3) reports on aboveground cultural resource and historic architectural structures, 4) updated restoration and rehabilitation plans (relating to post-construction activities relating to such matters as addressing erosion control, reseeding, etc.), 5) a design report on horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and 6) correspondence the firm has had over the past 60 days with various federal and state agencies concerning the ACP. DTI also filed revised compressor station plot plans and certain archaeological survey reports, but that information was deemed by the company as containing privileged information and therefore not available for public viewing. Among highlights from the filing are:

- The proposed HDD crossing of the Blue Ridge Parkway (at Reeds Gap) “will be complicated by the challenging topography at the site, which is likely to require some amount of excavation at both ends of the crossing to create level work areas for the HDD equipment.” Several cranes “will be needed to handle the pipe and support it as it is lifted during pullback to be aligned with the reamed hole,” but the work is judged to be technically feasible. (Appendix B)
- Forest fragmentation from construction of the ACP will affect 139 miles of forest, directly affect over 2100 acres and indirectly affect over 10,000 acres (essentially adjacent buffer zones). (Appendix H)

Energy Users Association Endorses the ACP

The [Industrial Energy Users of America](#) (ICEA) has urged approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in a filing with FERC on January 9. ICEA is a Washington-based association of manufacturing companies claiming combined annual sales of \$1 trillion and over 1.5 million employees.

The [ICEA filing](#) asks FERC to dismiss “a significant environmental activist movement who call for and support the ‘keep it in the ground’ mantra. Their objective is to force their will

ABRA Needs Your Support

The challenges facing the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance in 2017 are daunting. But, with your financial support we can continue to fight effectively against unneeded pipelines through our region

Please support ABRA’s important work by clicking [here](#).

upon consumers of natural gas in order to stop the use of fossil fuels for other alternatives, such as the exclusive production of electricity from solar or wind.”

The statement goes on to argue that “activists should not be able to deny this fundamental service of natural gas supply to consumers in the states. Activists’ motives are impractical and dangerous to the safety of people living in the states. Imagine forcing homeowners to be solely dependent upon renewable energy during severe weather conditions. If this pipeline is not built, activists will not be held accountable for the results.”

“Troubled Waters: Voices from Bath” To Premiere in Allegheny Highlands

Troubled Water: Voices from Bath, a multi-media, multi-perspective experience, will be shown for the first time in Bath County, VA, where the video and associated photos were shot, on January 19, 7 pm at the Old Dairy Barn in Warm springs, VA (located on U.S. 220). Produced by Voices From Bath, an ABRA member organization, the presentation addresses issues of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and its potential impacts in Bath County. Through exquisite photos and a moving documentary-style video, this project shares stories of Bath residents, their history, relationship with the land and dreams for it. A preview of the presentation was shown at the November 12 Pipeline Summit. More details are [here](#).

Pipelines Being Urged to Use State Courts for Eminent Domain Cases

A resolution is being circulated among Members of the Virginia General Assembly, asking that pipeline companies use state courts, rather than Federal courts, in any condemnation proceedings taken should projects be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The [draft joint resolution](#) “strongly encourages Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC to file any condemnation proceedings against Virginia private property owners in state court in order to ensure that these landowners may receive all the rights and considerations to which they are entitled under the Constitution and condemnation laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.”

A special lobbying for the joint resolution is being organized by Virginians For Fairness In Eminent Domain for next Monday, January 16 in Richmond. For information on how to participate, contact Jon Ansell, ansell@usa.net.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Groups denounce agency’s draft statement on proposed pipeline

- The Recorder – 1/12/17

http://www.abralliance.org/wp_content/uploads/2017/01/Groups_denounce_agencys_draft_statement_on_proposed_pipeline-Recorder_20170112.pdf

Opponents consider draft environmental statement woefully inadequate

Foundation urged again to turn down Dominion

- The Recorder – 1/12/17

http://www.abralliance.org/wp_content/uploads/2017/01/Foundation_urged_again_to_turn_down_Dominion-Recorder_20170112.pdf

FERC ignores available pipeline capacity

- News Leader – 1/5/17

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/readers/2017/01/05/ferc-ignores-available-pipeline-capacity/96168258/>

No time to let up on process

- The Recorder – 1/12/17

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/No_time_to_let_up_on_process-Recorder_editorial_20170112.pdf

Citizens groups, state agencies and the US Forest Service have done a lot of work to check Dominion's progress on the ACP (literally and figuratively), all parties urged to keep pushing on the issues

Editorial: The Atlantic Coast Pipeline gets a green light, and red herrings

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 1/7/16

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/our-opinion/article_cb447f06-500d-57ef-be53-7d947ca7e60d.html

Editorial claims opponents muddying issue by avoiding technical analysis and highlighting irrelevant topics...should do a little research!

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Virginia, Not Feds, Should Call Shots

- The Roanoke Star – 1/5/17

<http://theroanokestar.com/2017/01/05/virginia-not-feds-should-call-shots/>

Compensation suits related to eminent domain should be heard in Virginia courts, as they affect Virginia landowners

Bill would end Virginia utilities' rate freeze when Clean Power Plan dies

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 1/11/17

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/article_afa7c38e-bbef-564a-86e8-9e7251c9d27b.html

Sponsor says political change negates any need for the rate freeze, Dominion claims it was always "about more than base rates".

Buckingham OKs compressor station for pipeline over staunch opposition

- The Daily Progress – 1/6/17

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/buckingham-oks-compressor-station-for-pipeline-over-staunch-opposition/article_2e563954-d46d-11e6-a08b-73539878d1ab.html

'Pipeline Fighters' documentary a show of protest

- Roanoke Times – 1-8-17

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/franklin_county/pipeline-fighters-could-be-call-to-action-for-opponents-of/article_6f4653e1-86df-531f-b216-354755db876b.html

Filmmaker hopes documentary will be a call to action

Big Picture:

FERC reviews pipelines, but initial reports are favorable

- Herald Star – 1/12/17

<http://www.heraldstaronline.com/news/local-news/2017/01/ferc-reviews-pipelines-but-initial-reports-are-favorable/>

Feds give favorable reviews to multiple pipeline projects, opponents not convinced

Senators Keep Heat on FERC, Raise New Concerns Over Conflicts of Interest in Spectra Gas Pipeline Project

- SeSmog – 1/9/17

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/01/09/senators-ferc-raise-new-concerns-conflicts-interest-spectra-gas-pipeline-project>

US Army Corps keeps oil pipelines in streamlined permitting rule over protests

- Platts – 1/5/17

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/oil/washington/us-army-corps-keeps-oil-pipelines-in-streamlined-21517802>

Nationwide Permit 12., streamlining pipeline permitting, renewed for another 5 years

Will Trump's "All Of The Above" Energy Policy Impact The Parks?

- National Parks Traveler – 1/8/17

<http://www.nationalparkstraveler.com/2017/01/will-trumps-all-above-energy-policy-impact-parks>

Appalachian Trail and western parks, in addition to potentially-designated areas, under threat by natural gas pipeline build-out

Analysis Shows 'Dangerous' Pipeline Mega-Merger Threatens Climate and Consumers

- Common Dreams – 1/4/17

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/01/04/analysis-shows-dangerous-pipeline-mega-merger-threatens-climate-and-consumers>

Supporters, foes of Atlantic Sunrise pipeline in Lancaster County gird for final decision

- Lancaster Online – 1/11/17

http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/supporters-foes-of-atlantic-sunrise-pipeline-in-lancaster-county-gird/article_3488b220-d779-11e6-b6c4-ff8641c3f925.html

For Williams Partners, the decision cannot come soon enough, while opponents plan non-violent resistance similar to DAPL

As Tillerson Dodges, Exxon Ordered to Hand Over Evidence of Climate Cover-Up

- Common Dreams – 1/12/17

<http://www.commondreams.org/news/2017/01/12/tillerson-dodges-exxon-ordered-hand-over-evidence-climate-cover>

Massachusetts Superior Court denies Exxon's attempt to delay, directing the company to comply with #ExxonKnew investigation by AG Maura Healey

As Clean Energy Grows, Electricity Markets Must Evolve

- NRDC – 1/5/17

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/john-moore/clean-energy-grows-electricity-markets-must-evolve>

Changing realities of US energy system require changes to FERC-regulated wholesale power market structure, so as not to deter flexible generating resources