

# The Recorder

IN THE COMMUNITY, ABOUT THE COMMUNITY, SINCE 1877.

2017-03-30 / Letters

## Proposed pipeline would negatively impact Shenandoah Mountain

*Editor's note: The following letter was written to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.*

I am a neighbor and frequent visitor to the George Washington National Forest and wish to register my opposition to the proposed Dominion Atlantic Coast Pipeline in light of its potential impact on the Shenandoah Mountain area of the GWNF, which has outstanding scenic, ecological and recreational value.

In the GWNF, the U.S. 250 corridor is a scenic gateway to Shenandoah Mountain, which lies in the heart of the national forest and has a network of almost 200 miles of trails, including a segment of the Great Eastern Trail.

A 90,000-acre Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, proposed by Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, has been recommended for Congressional designation by the new GWNF management plan. The Shenandoah Mountain area is far too unique in terms of ecology and recreation to be a suitable location for a major interstate gas transmission pipeline. The 42-inch pipeline will require a permanent linear clearing that will create a pathway for invasive species that will degrade the ecological integrity of the area.

The pipeline will have a negative impact on:

- The scenic U.S. 250 gateway to GWNF. The GWNF plan calls for management of this area as a scenic corridor. The pipeline would be located on immediately adjacent land, which would ruin the scenic quality of the corridor;
- The scenic Shenandoah Mountain area, which has the largest tract of mostly unfragmented national forest land in the Eastern U.S.; and
- Hiking trails in the Georgia Camp-Ramseys Draft- Braley Pond-Dowells Draft- Hankey Mountain Area in the GWNF. The Braley Pond-Ramseys Draft area is of particular interest to me because of the scenic beauty and the flora and fauna found there.

For these reasons, I ask that FERC deny approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Alaina Henry  
Bridgewater, Va.