

# The Recorder

IN THE COMMUNITY, ABOUT THE COMMUNITY, SINCE 1877.

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## FERC should hold trial-like hearing on pipeline

*Editor's note: The following letter was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding Dominion Energy's proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline project.*

I am/we are opposed to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline ... Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC's agreements are not a reliable market proxy.

As demand for natural gas for power generation in Virginia and North Carolina is level through 2030, and electricity load forecasts for North Carolina have declined since 2014, the market demand for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline is undermined.

The capacity of existing natural gas pipeline and storage infrastructure (with planned modification) is sufficient to meet demand for natural gas in Virginia and North Carolina. Rapidly declining costs of renewable energy will render gas-fired power generation uneconomical in the coming years.

Section 7(e) of the Natural Gas Act requires that the commission determine whether a proposed interstate pipeline "is or will be required by the present or future public convenience and necessity."

I/we therefore respectfully request a trial-like evidentiary hearing, with an opportunity for discovery, before the commission to allow for resolution of the statements above.

As the commission's core function under the Natural Gas Act is to protect consumers from exploitation by natural gas companies, we ask FERC to conduct a careful and searching inquiry of the public benefit and necessity for CP15-554 (case file) and to resolve the facts presented here which the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's filings dispute.

As eminent domain is used to acquire private lands, are not public benefit and necessity required to be clearly proven?

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