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State asks Dominion to expand survey

BY JOHN BRUCE • STAFF WRITER

MONTEREY — The Virginia Department of Health Office of Environmental Health Services has asked for a sanitary survey of land within at least 1,000 feet on either side of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline centerline.

The survey would vastly exceed the range recommended in the project's final environmental report.

"Protecting water quality for property owners that are reliant upon springs, cisterns, and private wells is a paramount concern," noted Lance Gregory, VDH program administration manager.

The ACP final environmental report recommends field surveys for wells and springs within 150 feet of the construction workspace (500 feet in karst terrain) be completed prior to construction, Gregory said. "OEHS recommends that a complete sanitary survey along the pipeline's path be performed by a team of persons with expertise in geology, hydro-geology, epidemiology, and public health," Gregory said in an Aug. 18 letter to Robert Payne, acting director of the Office of Drinking Water, and Arlene Warren, policy and planning specialist, and filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"OEHS recommends that a sanitary survey within at least 1,000 feet on either side of the pipeline be performed to ensure people and properties using local and regional groundwater and surface water for recreational use or human consumption are identified and protected. The sanitary survey should also include all private wells and springs identified as potential receptors as part of (Dominion's) Karst Mitigation Plan," Gregory said.