



ABRA Update #151 – October 12, 2017

Additional Information Provided on Virginia DEQ Water Quality Meetings

Last week's ABRA Update reported that the Virginia State Water Control Board would hold special meetings in on the proposed water quality certifications for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). The Department of Environmental Quality has since provided additional information on how the sessions will proceed.

At each meeting, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will present a summary of the public comments it received and will make its recommendations to the board on the proposed conditions. At each meeting, the board may approve, deny or amend the recommendations.

The meeting dates are: MVP - December 6 & 7, 2017; ACP – December 11 & 12, 2017

- *Both meetings will be held at the Trinity Family Life Center, at [3601 Dill Road, Richmond, VA 23222](#). Click [here](#) for directions.*
- *Each meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. and is scheduled to last up to two days.*
- *On the first day of each meeting, those persons who made oral or written comments may sign up to respond to the summary of public comments presented to the board by DEQ.*
- *The meeting is open to the public.*
- *Under the board's [policy](#), only those people who provided comments during the July 3, 2017 – August 22, 2017 official public comment period may speak to the board.*
- *The response document will be available on the DEQ website in advance of the December meetings.*
- *The official agenda containing more details will be posted on the Virginia Regulatory [Town Hall](#), as well as on DEQ's webpage, [Water Protection for Pipelines](#).*

Further information and analysis will be provided in coming issues of ABRA Update.

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

ACP/MVP Easement Conversions Top VOF Agenda for Monday

The proposed conservation easement conversions of certain properties along the routes of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline may be decided on Monday, October 16 during a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. The 10 am meeting will be held at office of the State Corporation Commission, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219

[Last week's ABRA Update](#) reported on the background of the meeting. The easement issues will be the first item on the [board's agenda](#). Public comments will be permitted. Actions available to the board include approval or disapproval of the conversions, but a decision could be deferred until a later date.

People's Tribunal Set for October 28 in Charlottesville

A public forum on human rights and environmental justice impacts that would result from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline is scheduled for Saturday, October 28 in Charlottesville, VA beginning at 11:30 am. The event will feature experts in the fields of environmental and medical science, environmental justice presiding as judges to hear first-person impacts and expert testimonies from persons in affected communities. Among the more than twenty co-sponsoring organizations are ABRA, Virginia Sierra Club, Friends of Buckingham, Appalachian Voices and Yogaville Environmental Solutions. Further information on the Tribunal, including how people can participate and support the event, is available [here](#) and on the [event's Facebook page](#).

North Carolina Begins ACP Air Permit Consideration

The North Carolina Division of Air Quality on October 10 opened a public comment period for a minor source air quality permit for the proposed Northampton Compressor Station, which would serve the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). If the permit is approved, it will regulate operation of air emissions sources and air cleaning devices. The [agency's announcement](#) also said that it will hold a public hearing on the draft permit at 6 p.m. Nov. 15 at in Garysburg, N.C.

Commencement of the air permit consideration follows last week's release by another division of the state's Department of Environmental Quality of a [letter of disapproval](#) of the ACP's erosion and sediment plan for the North Carolina portion of the project. This news was communicated to the ABRA mailing list in a special email alert last Friday, October 6.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dominion's Pipeline: Sticker Shock for Virginia Consumers

- NRDC – 10/12/17

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/walton-shepherd/dominions-pipeline-sticker-shock-virginia-consumers>

Expert analysis from a natural gas industry veteran, recently filed with state regulators, provides an eye-popping estimate of just how much the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will likely cost Virginia consumers: well over a billion dollars (yes, that's a B), and possibly well over two billion.

Groups demand feds scrap Dominion pipeline report

- The Recorder – 10/12/17

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Groups_demand_feds_scrap_Dominion_pipeline_report-Recorder_20171012.pdf

The motion says FERC must take a “hard look” at new information, review it in the context of the application and current public comments, and then supplement the draft Environmental Impact Statement to incorporate the new information.

Duke Energy Wants to Build a \$5 Billion Pipeline Through Eastern North Carolina. They’ll Have to Go Through Marvin Winstead First.

- Indy Week – 10/11/17

<https://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/duke-energy-wants-to-build-a-5-billion-pipeline-through-eastern-north-carolina-theyll-have-to-go-through-marvin-winstead-first/Content?oid=8681735>

NC officials reject environmental plan for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- The News & Observer – 10/9/17

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article177890556.html>

Related:

- <http://www.robsonian.com/news/103685/acp-owners-remain-confident-despite-permit-denial>

- <http://www.wHSV.com/content/news/Anti-pipeline-activist-remains-450322073.html>

Buppert and Sanner column: Construction of Atlantic Coast Pipeline will destroy lands, endanger state’s waters

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 10/8/17

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/buppert-and-sanner-column-construction-of-atlantic-coast-pipeline-will/article_2ccfba42-e378-599d-8e2f-dab04169ef32.html

Construction of this pipeline would mean the large-scale disturbance of thousands of acres of land in its path, putting hundreds of our streams, rivers, and wetlands at risk of harmful sediment pollution from erosion and stormwater runoff.

Dominion pipeline talking points don’t stand up to scrutiny

- Oil Change International – 10/11/17

<http://priceofoil.org/2017/10/11/dominion-pipeline-talking-points-dont-stand-up-to-scrutiny/>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Pipeline preparations moving forward at Raleigh County staging base

- NBC WVVA news – 10/10/17

<http://www.wvva.com/story/36563933/2017/10/Tuesday/pipeline-preparations-moving-forward-at-raleigh-county-staging-base>

Construction crews amassing supplies, though MVP is currently stalled without a DEP’s water permit.

Montgomery County rescinds deal with DEQ over Mountain Valley Pipeline

- WDBJ7 News – 10/11/17

<http://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Montgomery-County-rescinds-deal-with-DEQ-over-Mountain-Valley-Pipeline-450512983.html>

Roanoke County seeks more comment time on Mountain Valley Pipeline effects

- The Roanoke Times – 10/10/17

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke-county/roanoke-county-seeks-more-comment-time-on-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_909fec2-59fc-5b60-886d-6b7624a2065d.html

Big Picture:

How Scott Pruitt's EPA Is Erasing Obama's Climate Change Legacy

- Frontline – 10/11/17

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/article/how-scott-pruitts-epa-is-erasing-obamas-climate-change-legacy/>

The move to undo former president Barack Obama's signature domestic climate change initiative is one of the most ambitious efforts to rollback environmental regulation in a generation.

Related:

- <http://baconsrebellion.com/40884-2/>

The Myth That 'Business' Hated Obama's Clean Power Plan

- The Atlantic – 10/10/17

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2017/10/business-clean-power-plan/542529/>

Many big companies that have publicly pledged to reduce their environmental footprint would have been happy to see a shift toward more renewable energy, and even stood to benefit from it if it brought their energy costs down.

FERC Commissioners and Staff Question DOE's Push for Cost Recovery for Coal and Nuclear

- Greentech Media – 10/10/17

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ferc-commissioners-and-staff-question-does-push-for-cost-recovery-for-coal>

Two commissioners speak out for markets free from political interference, while questions for public commenters underscore the weaknesses in DOE's argument.

A Final Fight for the Keystone Pipeline

- Rolling Stone – 10/11/17

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/features/a-final-fight-for-the-keystone-pipeline-w508153>

The fight over the future of the Keystone XL may be approaching its endgame.

UPDATE: NEXUS gets approval to start 255-mile pipeline

- Canton Rep – 10/11/17

<http://www.cantonrep.com/news/20171011/update-nexus-gets-approval-to-start-255-mile-pipeline>

Including Climate Change in Environmental Impact Analyses

- The Regulatory Review – 10/12/17

<https://www.theregreview.org/2017/10/12/daniel-climate-change-impact-analyses/>

Good explanation of the effects and implications of *Sierra Club v. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission*, and why it matters

Despite Trump, American companies are still investing in renewable energy

- The Guardian – 10/11/17

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2017/oct/11/despite-trump-american-companies-are-still-investing-in-renewable-energy>