

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 4
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Atlantic Coast Pipeline
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 and
CP15-554-001

March 5, 2018

Mr. Matthew R. Bley
Director Gas Transmission Certificates
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
707 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Partial Notice to Proceed for Certain Tree-felling Activities

Mr. Bley:

I grant Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC's (Atlantic) and Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.'s (DETI) March 2, 2018 request to commence certain limited tree felling activities. Specifically, this authorization grants approval to cut trees and vegetation in wetlands, including the 50-foot setback from wetlands and waterbodies within the certificated right-of-way in Virginia.

As described in your request, Atlantic and DETI may only fell trees via non-mechanized methods. Non-mechanized cutting is defined as the use of equipment that can be operated and carried by hand, by an individual; and that use of wheeled, tracked, or other similar types of ground-disturbing equipment is **not** authorized for clearing-related activity. Felled trees and vegetation debris shall be left in place until further authorization for any earth-disturbing activities is granted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This approval is only for the right-of-way in Virginia and does **not** authorize the use of additional access roads, compressor stations, and yards not yet authorized. This approval does **not** authorize any activity on U.S. Forest Service lands, including use of access roads, until Atlantic obtains the applicable permit(s).

In considering this limited notice to proceed, we have reviewed Atlantic and DETI's Implementation Plan, filed on October 17, 2017, construction constraint maps, and tree-felling maps. Based on our review, Atlantic and DETI have provided the necessary information to meet the environmental conditions of the Commission's October 13, 2017 *Order Issuing Certificates* (Order) as it relates to the activities approved herein. In addition, we have documented the receipt or waiver of all required federal authorizations relevant to the approved tree-felling activity.

I remind you that the area authorized is for tree felling only, and that Atlantic and DETI must comply with all applicable terms and conditions of the Order, as well as the conservation measures identified in other agency authorizations required by federal law. As noted in your request, Atlantic and DETI must successfully obtain easements prior to commencement of cutting on individual tracts.

If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact Kevin Bowman, environmental project manager, at 202-502-6287.

Sincerely,

Dave Swearingen
Chief, Gas Branch 4
Division of Gas – Environment
and Engineering

cc: Public File, Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 and CP15-554-001

Document Content(s)

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