



## ABRA Update #179 – May 3, 2018

### ABRA Conducts Tour of ACP Route for Media Representatives



ABRA conducted a tour for representatives of the media on April 27 of sites along the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Highland and Bath Counties, Virginia. Left, above, CSI Committee Chair Rick Webb (r) discusses with Mike Soraghan of E&E News how and where the ACP would cross the Jackson River in northern Bath County. Right, above, Robert Zullo of the Richmond Times-Dispatch (c) walks with David Sligh of Wild Virginia (l) and Richard Brooks of the Cowpasture River Preservation Association on property in southwestern Highland County where the ACP would cross land heavily laden with sinkholes and karst topography. For more, see *Recorder* article below, “Media told karst damage from project is certain.” (Photos courtesy of Cat McCue of Appalachian Voices).

### New Comment Period for ACP Opened by Virginia DEQ

A comment period for public input on the adequacy of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 in protecting streams and wetlands crossed by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline began April 30. It ends on May 30. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced the specifics of the comment period on April 27, pursuant to a request of the State Water Control Board at its April 12 meeting. [The DEQ announcement](#) stated:

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At the April 12, 2018 board meeting, discussion occurred as to whether NWP 12 is sufficiently protective of the Commonwealth's aquatic resources. While the board raised no specific areas of concern; provided no technical information that NWP 12 was insufficient; and took no action to revisit certification of NWP 12 as it relates to MVP and ACP, the board decided to provide a 30-day written public comment opportunity.

The sole purpose of the written public comment period is for interested persons to submit **technical comments and/or information** for the MVP and ACP projects relevant to:

- 1) the sufficiency of the Corps NWP 12 permit's *general and regional conditions*, as they relate to **specific, wetland or stream crossing(s)**;
- 2) the sufficiency of the Corps NWP 12 *permit authorization* for each project, as related to **specific, wetland or stream crossing(s)**; and/or
- 3) the sufficiency of the Commonwealth's § 401 *water quality certification of NWP 12*, as related to **specific, wetland or stream crossing(s)**

All ABRA members are urged to file their own comments and encourage their members and constituencies to do so as well. Wild Virginia has prepared an excellent guide to provide assistance: "Suggestions for Comments to DEQ Public Notice Impacts from Waterbody Crossings and Water Quality Standards," available by clicking [here](#).

## CSI Volunteers Still Needed

Nearly 100 persons have signed on to become volunteers in ABRA's Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI). However, more people are needed. Find out how you can participate and sign-up by visiting the [CSI website](#). Do it today!

## In the News:

### Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

#### Pipe storage yard denied

- The Recorder – 5/3/18

[https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Pipe-storage-yard-denied-Recorder\\_20180503.pdf](https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Pipe-storage-yard-denied-Recorder_20180503.pdf)

#### Arlington Dems Join Loudoun Dems In Urging Stream-by-Stream Analysis on Mountain Valley, Atlantic Coast Pipelines

- Blue Virginia – 4/30/18

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/04/arlinton-dems-join-loudoun-dems-in-urging-stream-by-stream-analysis-on-mountain-valley-atlantic-coast-pipelines>

#### Media told karst damage from project is certain

- The Recorder – 5/3/18

[https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Media-told-karst-damage-from-project-is-certain-Recorder\\_20180503.pdf](https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Media-told-karst-damage-from-project-is-certain-Recorder_20180503.pdf)

The route violates the company's best management practices and contradicts its paid geological engineering consultant's advice to avoid karst topography.

## **Dominion's latest 15-year forecast calls for more solar, but draws fire over demand projections**

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 5/1/18  
[http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/dominion-s-latest--year-forecast-calls-for-more-solar/article\\_b3156d56-c229-5979-8936-033a3f40adc1.html](http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/dominion-s-latest--year-forecast-calls-for-more-solar/article_b3156d56-c229-5979-8936-033a3f40adc1.html)  
Demand projections used to justify Dominion's plans for 8 new gas-fired power plants over the next 15 years.

## **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

### **Judge hears arguments for and against two pipeline protesters sitting in trees**

- The Daily Progress – 5/2/18  
[http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/region/judge-hears-arguments-for-and-against-two-pipeline-protesters-sitting/article\\_2be34b73-ad27-5db1-9af6-94532105ddef.html](http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/region/judge-hears-arguments-for-and-against-two-pipeline-protesters-sitting/article_2be34b73-ad27-5db1-9af6-94532105ddef.html)

### **Doctors 'shocked' by lack of access to Virginia pipeline protesters**

- Think Progress – 5/1/18  
<https://thinkprogress.org/pipeline-protesters-doctors-perriello-aff2175bb58e/>  
In a series of tweets following the attempted check-up, Perriello said neither she nor Gelburd were allowed through to the Terrys. Instead, the doctors were forced to yell questions through police tape.  
Related:  
- <https://bluevirginia.us/2018/05/state-sen-chap-petersen-files-lawsuit-against-u-s-forest-service-over-mountain-valley-pipeline-protesters>

### **Charges against protesters unfair**

- Suffolk News-Herald – 5/2/18  
<https://www.suffolknewsherald.com/2018/05/02/charges-against-protesters-unfair/>  
Quick legal action against protesters stands in contrast to the slow pace mandated by the courts for challenges against the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

### **40-acre pipe yard on Brushy Fork Rd. is one of just four ACP yards in W.Va.**

- The Record Delta – 5/3/18  
<https://therecorddelta.com/article/40-acre-pipe-yard-on-brushy-fork-rd-is-one-of-just-four-acp-yards-in-wva>  
Thus far, FERC has only approved the location of two contractor yards, and the second is located in Halifax County, N.C. In total, Dominion Energy/ACP expects to operate 15-20 contractor yards over the 600-mile footprint of the ACP.

### **“The Governor called for individual waterbody crossing reviews when he was running for office. He must now make sure those reviews occur.”**

- Blue Virginia – 4/30/18  
<http://bluevirginia.us/2018/04/the-governor-called-for-individual-waterbody-crossing-reviews-when-he-was-running-for-office-he-must-now-make-sure-those-reviews-occur>

## **Big Picture:**

### **Powerful Investors Push Big Companies to Plan for Climate Change**

- Scientific American – 5/3/18  
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/powerful-investors-push-big-companies-to-plan-for-climate-change/>  
This spring, Wall Street seems more accepting of climate science as shareholders demand plans to reduce risks

## **Pruitt Is Wrong on Burning Forests for Energy**

- The New York Times – 5/3/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/03/opinion/pruitt-forests-burning-energy.html>

Basic fact: Burning wood from forests to generate electricity is not carbon neutral when the direct emissions from combustion, plus emissions from soil and logging and processing the wood, are considered.

## **From Tree-Sitters to Water Protectors: Meet the Women On the Front Lines of Eco-Activism**

- Brit + Co – 4/26/18

<https://www.brit.co/women-eco-activism/>

“Actions against pipelines in recent years have had a strong showing of women at the front lines, from Standing Rock to the treetops of Virginia. Though they often do not receive their due recognition for the risks they take on behalf of their communities and the earth, these activists will continue to put themselves on the line for the sake of the planet.”

## **Supreme Court Lets NY Denial of Constitution Pipeline Stand**

- NRDC – 5/1/18

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/kimberly-ong/supreme-court-lets-ny-denial-constitution-pipeline-stand>

Constitution pipeline is quickly running out of ways to get around New York State’s decision, and with this latest denial by the Supreme Court, the pipeline is looking less and less likely.

## **New study answers the question, ‘What is grid resilience?’**

- Environmental Defense Fund – 5/2/18

<http://blogs.edf.org/energyexchange/2018/05/02/new-study-answers-the-question-what-is-grid-resilience/>

“...generation shortfalls cause a fraction of customer outages – between 2003 and 2017, only 0.2 percent of all customer-outage hours (including 0.0002% from fuel supply problems) were caused by generation shortfalls.” It seems Perry was off the mark. “Umm...Uh Oh!”

Related:

- <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/pjm-says-it-doesnt-need-firstenergys-nuclear-plants-for-grid-reliability#gs.VRI77GU>

## **Don't Underestimate the Anti-Pipeline Resistance**

- TruthOut – 5/2/18

<http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/44341-don-t-underestimate-the-anti-pipeline-resistance>

Several high-profile pipeline fights across North America are collectively challenging the oil industry’s dominance over economies and landscapes.

## **Oil-rich Nigeria turns to renewable energy as population booms**

- Reuters – 5/3/18

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-britain-renewables-analysis/oil-rich-nigeria-turns-to-renewable-energy-as-population-booms-idUSKBN1I419F>