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May 11, 2016

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

RE: Docket No.: CP15-554

Dear Madam Bose:

The Bath County Board of Supervisors ("Board") herewith submits comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding Atlantic Coast Pipeline's application for GWNF-6 Alternative Route.

The Board has heard concerns from citizens regarding the location of the pipeline due to Bath County's karst topography. This concern is shared by the Board. Karst areas are very fragile and the effects of construction on these sensitive systems need to be taken into account. Proper placement to avoid karst areas is crucial because construction could pose a safety hazard to the surrounding properties and the public. Please refer to *attached exhibit* (Exhibit "A") as it indicates known caves and sinkholes. The Muddy Run and Dry Run Road areas indicate those known places. The pipeline should avoid this area.

The Board would like to ensure at all costs that wells and springs are protected. Residents depend on private wells and springs for their water source. Construction near these wells and springs increase the likelihood of contamination or complete loss of water. Citizens are very concerned of this potentiality. Damage to wells and springs must not happen and adequate measures need to be in place to protect them. This protection should not only be during construction, or for a short-term thereafter, since water systems may not indicate damage for many years depending on the volume of water available and the amount of usage at a particular site. Long-term testing of water quantity and quality needs to be required, as well as legal guarantee of remediation if there is contamination or loss of water supply.

The Board understands that the proposed pipeline will have to intersect with state and federal roads. For health and safety reasons, boring underneath all state and federal roads should be required as opposed to having roadways cut out with an open trench.

The majority of Bath County comprises federal lands. George Washington National Forest land should be considered as the location for the proposed pipeline route wherever feasible.

The Board understands that the minimum standards for erosion and sediment will be met, but assert that a project of this magnitude should be required to exceed minimum standards. Requiring best management practices would also help protect Bath County's water supply. This standard should apply to both the pipeline and access roads.

The Bath County Comprehensive Plan needs to be taken into consideration; specifically, the following chapters: Economy, Natural Environment, Transportation, Public Utilities, Community Facilities and Services, and Land Use. Please refer to *attached exhibit* (Exhibit "B") for comments referenced by the Bath County Planning Commission.

Finally, we appreciate FERC conducting a scoping meeting in Bath County on May 21, 2016.

The Bath County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously and approved this comment letter at their May 10, 2016 meeting. The Board of Supervisors opposes any approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, respectfully requests that the scoping period be extended to July 2, 2016, and that you give strong consideration to its comments set forth above and the environmental impacts that the pipeline may pose.

Sincerely,



Claire A. Collins, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Attest:



Ashton N. Harrison
Clerk

Legend

- Caves_Sinkholes
- ▬ Dominion Pipeline Alt. Rt 2-2016
- ✉ Post Office
- ⊕ Bath_Rescue
- ▬ Roads_20130821

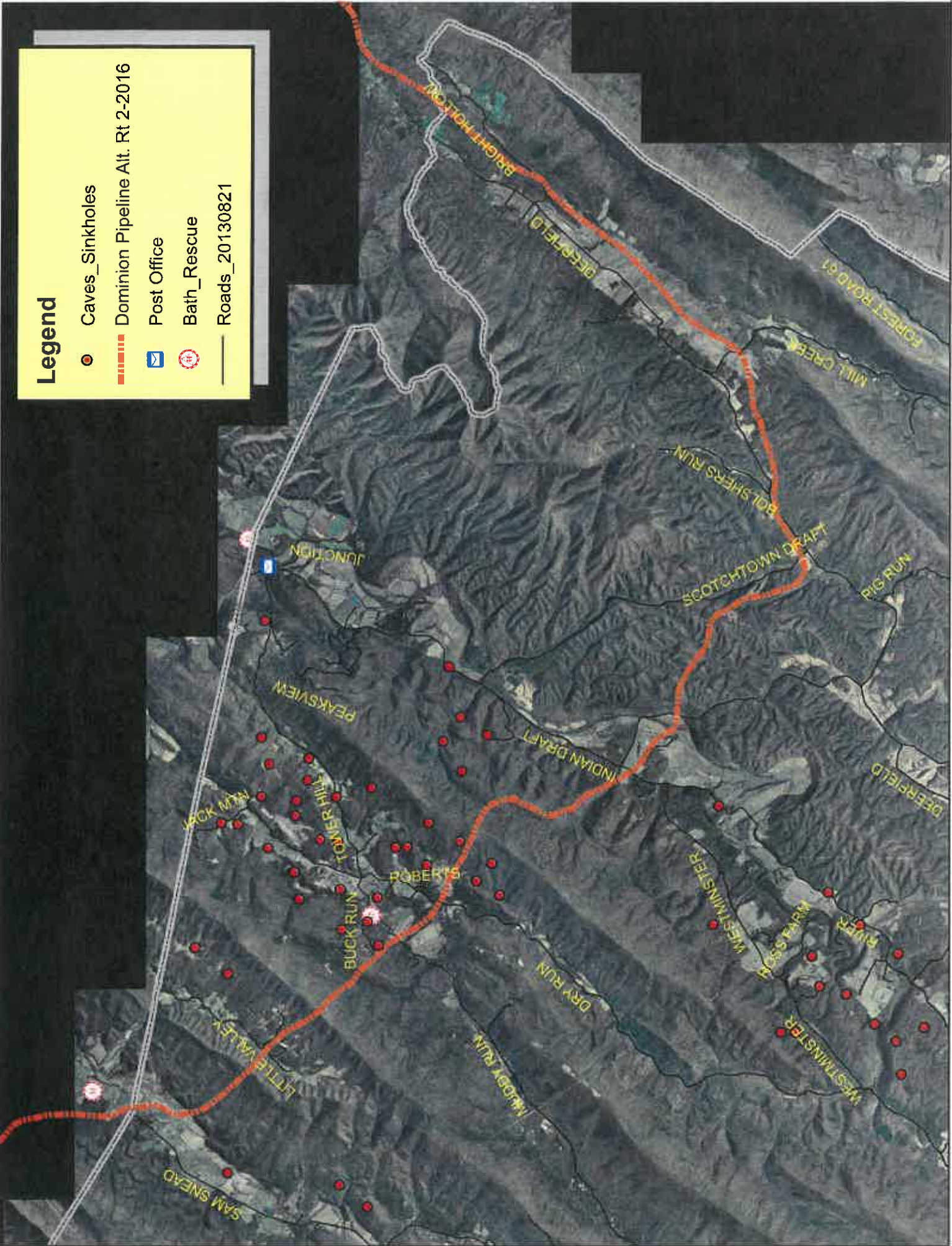


Exhibit A

Exhibit B

At the April 25, 2016 Planning Commission meeting, there was a motion with a vote of 5-0 as follows:
“After review of the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission send to the Board of Supervisors the attached document to support a resolution against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline”

Included in this document are the Planning Commission's findings of the impact the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline would have on the Bath County Comprehensive Plan. As outlined, the pipeline would be in direct conflict with, or cost the County significant resources to mitigate 6 of the goals and 20 of the objectives adopted in the Comprehensive Plan.

This is particularly the case in the chapters covering the Natural Environment and Land Use.

Therefore, it is the Planning Commission's recommendation that the Board of Supervisors prepare and adopt a resolution opposing the construction of the Atlantic Coast pipeline.

We have reviewed the County comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance. Particular notice should be taken into account for the following:

Economy:

Objective:

- Maintain the overall high quality of life in the County which serves as a major attraction for new employers and employees. Capitalize on the economic assets of the agricultural landscape, natural beauty, and historic resources.

Natural Environment:

While the County is obligated by state and federal regulations to protect attributes such as air and water quality, and unique habitats, the ultimate responsibility of achieving a healthy balance between economic and environmental interests rests squarely on the shoulders of our citizens.

Goals:

- Reduce potential environmental problems associated with karst topography
- Conserve the County's soil resources and protect prime soils
- Protect local water resources and unique aquatic habitats

Objectives:

- Work with DEQ to monitor mineral resource exploration activities so as to ensure groundwater resources are not contaminated
- Encourage developers to complete a detailed, site-specific soil survey before construction
- Acknowledge the County's potential for affecting soil and water quality on a regional scale by supporting the County's Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance
- Utilize zoning and site plan requirements to reduce the amount of impervious surface built in watersheds
- Pursue cooperative programs with neighboring counties to reduce pollutant discharges into streams and rivers
- **Require all industries to meet and maintain water quality standards as may be set forth by regulation/law**
- Encourage property owners in the floodplain to retain undeveloped property in a natural state
- Adhere to the Virginia Department of Forestry's Code of Silviculture Best Management Practices.

Transportation:

Goal:

- Increase public safety and improvements on all County roads

Objectives:

- Maintain the existing primary and secondary road system at its current level or better, working with VDOT to ensure regularly scheduled maintenance and upgrades to meet existing and future traffic demand
- Support VDOT's policies and programs for adequate transportation infrastructure operating at acceptable levels of public roads
- Institute a policy to ensure that developers, and not taxpayers, pay for the costs and impacts of development within the County

Public Utilities:

Objectives:

- Encourage partnerships among existing utility providers that will support appropriate economic development endeavors
- Develop or obtain other water sources and facilities, such as an area treatment plant for the Jackson and Cowpasture basins

Community Facilities and Services:

Goal:

- Strive to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens and property in the County through all fire, rescue, and law enforcement entities

Objective:

- Institute a policy to ensure that developers, and not taxpayers, pay for the costs and impacts of development within the County.

Land Use:

Goal:

- Ensure the effective land use palling is kept in balance with the freedom and rights of individual landowners

Objectives:

- Preserve and protect the water quality, scenic beauty, and natural character of the Cowpasture and Jackson Rivers, as well as Back Creek, by using established Best Management Practices
- Avoid developing on steep slopes (greater than 25%) due to potential problems with erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution
- Discourage or carefully regulate development of land areas within the 100-year floodplain of any river or stream
- Develop and support incentives and techniques described herein to preserve Bath County's rural historic character (conservation easements, land use taxation, historical landmarks designation, Virginia Byway designation, and cluster development)
- Consider revising the current Zoning Ordinance to include:
 - Adopt a set of comprehensive telecommunications, wind and solar facilities, and mineral and gas extraction siting guidelines
 - Include model ordinances that will protect water quality, ridgetops, viewsheds, dark skies, and soil quality.

Respectfully submitted,
John Cowden
Chair
Bath County Planning Commission