

From: Mike Smith [mailto:mdsmith45@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, May 18, 2018 5:49 PM
To: 'NWP12InfoOnACP@deq.virginia.gov'
Subject: ACP NWP 12 comment on Calfpasture River
Department of Environmental Quality
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Sir or Madam,

I live in close proximity to the Calfpasture River and to where this river enters Rockbridge County and becomes known as the Maury River in Goshen Pass. I am writing to express my concern about the 71 stream crossings of the Calfpasture River and its tributaries by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Augusta County and the cumulative effects this will likely have on water quality in this river. This Augusta County section of spring-fed, meandering river flows through scenic farms and forests and is a favorite destination for motorists, bicyclists, swimmers, canoeists, picnickers, and trout anglers. As the Calfpasture leaves Augusta County and the ACP impact area it passes into Rockbridge County. There it flow through a narrow gorge called Goshen Pass, drops sharply in elevation and becomes the most beautiful section of whitewater river in Virginia. The river is full of huge boulders, waterfalls, and rapids and kayakers and experienced canoeists from all over the state come to enjoy the challenge of navigating the class 111 to V rapids. The River is now called the Maury River, named after a distinguished professor and oceanographer, Matthew Maury, who taught at nearby VMI in Lexington. The river flows for only a short distance through Rockbridge County and then, as a major tributary, flows into the James River. The Calfpastureand Maury River system is enjoyed by all of the outdoor enthusiasts mentioned previously: anglers, boaters, cyclists, hikers, picnickers, swimmers, etc. There is also a premier hiking and biking rail-trail, the C&O Trail, a canal tow path and later railroad trail which is visited and used by locals and tourists alike.

My wife and I moved to this area because of the beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities provided by this river. When we are not participating directly in an outdoor sport, one of our favorite activities is to sit on one of the large boulders in the river, listen to the roar of the passing water, enjoy the beautiful scenery (picture attached), watch fishermen and kayakers pass by, and observe a multitude of wildlife found on the river such as eagles, osprey, peregrine falcons, all species of migrating waterfowl, beaver, deer, muskrat, and trout, to name a few. I am very concerned that significant sediment from the 71 stream crossings of the ACP will significantly impair the clear, clean, water and rocky bottom of this spring-fed mountain river, damaging aquatic life and limiting my own and other's frequent use and enjoyment.

This river system also provides an important source of tourism revenue from Augusta County to the Chesapeake Bay. If the water quality is degraded, this will have a significant economic impact on communities along the river. This river system also provides municipal water to many municipalities, large and small, from nearby Goshen to communities below Richmond, supplying safe drinking water to millions of people. This source of high quality, unpolluted drinking water is an invaluable resource for the large area of Virginia served by this river system. I am also concerned that the blasting and dredging of 71 stream crossings could diminish the flow of springs and spring-fed tributaries feeding this river system and, in turn, diminish the flow of water all along the route.

Mike Smith
PO Box 26
Brownsburg, VA 24415
540-817-5699