

May 15, 2018

To: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Water Control board.
P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, Virginia 23218

From: Philip Khnopp
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Item: Atlantic Coast Pipeline-ACP and Mountain Valley Pipeline-MVP. Water quality and sedimentation affects relating to proposed pipeline projects construction in Virginia.

Dear Board members at large: With awareness of the latest decision by the Water Control Board, allowing a thirty-day period for public comments concerning the numerous water crossings of local streams and rivers in the state of Virginia, relating to ACP and MVP projects in our state, I submit my comments and concerns in this matter.

The previous Draft Environmental Impact Study-DEIS concerning the MVP and ACP projects were not thoroughly studied by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-FERC in 2016. I protest how the citizens of our nation and the environment and all of those who depend upon clean air, water and soil for their existence, continue to be treated.

It is unacceptable for a blanket permit approach for all stream and estuary crossings in this matter. Every one of these crossing points are unique to any particular landscape. Each one of these must be individually and meticulously studied to ascertain what can be done to assure that the water quality and erosion factors in each case can be conducted without any damage to the environment. I know that Dominion Power Corporation and Duke Energy Corporations continue to reassure us that these pipeline projects can be safely built with no significant damage to the environment being incurred by these projects, but the existing evidence that I see to date does not credibly support these claims.

I have researched the records of significant pipeline incidents which have occurred (Nationally in the U.S.) over a ten-year period. I found that there is an average of two significant pipeline-related events per month which have been recorded. Probably some of the smaller incidents have not been included in these reports. The number of new pipelines in the U.S. is on the increase and therefore, there will be a greater number of pipeline-related events in the U.S. . I am aware of a pipeline event that occurred in the nearby city of Waynesboro, on the tenth of this month. A bolt of lightning struck a small tree, adjacent to someone's driveway, and ignited a small, underground pipeline there. The resulting fireball that occurred in this incident was quite spectacular and could have resulted in injuries to anyone who might have been nearby at that time.

With regard to the numerous water crossings which are proposed to occur across our state with the ACP and MVP projects, it is extremely dangerous to risk the quality of our fresh water resources as well as human, plant and animal safety in the event of any pipeline breach events. In the case of the afore-mentioned projects, these are basically experimental in their nature (42 inch, high pressure pipelines) and have not been previously attempted, tested or approved in projects on the scale suggested here: about 600 miles, and ultimately connecting a pipeline system which will stretch from parts of Pennsylvania to South Carolina! There are a number of fragile, "karst" terrain (porous limestone sub-soil structures) areas along these routes, as well as fault lines, caverns, underground streams, aquifers and other wetland areas that will be at risk here. The sheer weight of these 42" pipelines is immense and in time, will inevitably crack and rupture along a number certain fragile areas in this proposed total pipeline route. It is appropriate to say that it is the nature of such pipeline structures to leak and explode.

Middle River runs through our family's farmland and we are within about a mile and a half above a point where ACP is slated to cross our river, nearby to a place called Eagle Rock. This part of Middle River has been a favorite spot for many locals of all ages to enjoy swimming and fishing. On April 15th, we experienced high water conditions which actually swept over the top of our bridge (Photos) and covered the approach so that we could not use it for twenty-four hours. I shudder when I think of what such high waters could do to a 42-inch pipeline going across Middle River in such conditions.

One must consider an eventual pipeline breakage event and leaking, and the catastrophic effects which would occur in the event of deliberate acts of foreign or domestic acts of sabotage upon such structures, simultaneously at multiple points of attack. The suggested evacuation zones from any given point of breach is seven tenths of a mile in one direction, one and four tenths miles in total diameter. This is a considerably large area when one considers that many of these pipelines run nearby to populated areas. Since there have still been no comprehensive public safety studies (Local, State or Federal) relating to gas pipeline structure mishaps, accidentally or deliberately caused, then we are inviting tragedy of immense proportions if we continue to ignore public safety.

To also be considered are the facts that fracking operations which yield vast amounts of "Natural Gas", have been shown to stimulate tectonic activity "earthquakes" in areas such as Oklahoma that are not previously known to be tectonically active. It is nothing short of irresponsible to ignore such evidence in the pursuit of profit, while endangering so many others. Earthquakes are terribly destructive forces of nature.

In 2015 the Department of Energy-DOE, issued a statement to the effect that no additional new pipeline structures are needed in Virginia, for our foreseeable gas related energy needs. This point of fact has been repeated time and time again by many well-informed, concerned citizens who feel alarmed when they are not being heeded. I now speak to FERC, Va. DEQ, and others; *you may no longer continue to ignore us in these matters*. We are forced to believe that you are being paid off to do so, and you dare to call yourselves institutions who serve the public interest and well-being. (Let us not forget that David Paylor, Director of Va. DEQ, appointed by Gov. McAuliffe in 2013, attended the pro Masters Golf Event that same year and was paid to do so by Dominion Power Corporation).

Dominion Power Corporation and Duke Energy Corporation and continue to claim that this is an issue of Eminent Domain. Nothing could be further from the truth. What Dominion and Duke corporations propose is contrary to Eminent Domain when, they say that this would be for the benefit of the many. True Eminent Domain applies in the case of *real public utilities* whose works stand to be of benefit large members of the public. In this instance, the vast members of the public in Virginia and other areas will not prosper from these projects. It is clear that the intention of these corporations in this case is to direct these pipelines to coastal port areas and ship this product to foreign lands. This is a land for profit grab, plain and simple. This is illegal and unconstitutional.

The legacy of the fossil fuel and Nuclear power industries is one of waste and devastation. There are numerous, abandoned, deep soil mines and strip mining sites which have not been reclaimed, as well as abandoned oil and gas wells which have also not been appropriately closed or reclaimed. These areas continue to toxify groundwater tables and decrease property values in those areas. Taxpayers are the ones who unknowingly, subsidize such *corporate recklessness*.

It is fair to say that, up until now that the playing field has been uneven here, against the people and the environment and in favor of corporations. It is estimated that the accrued liabilities from so many abandoned industrial mines and well-sites may be as high as two hundred forty billion dollars. There have been no sig-

nificant pay-outs from the responsible corporate parties for such damages. Special interest groups have bought and sold our lawmakers and continue to receive generous subsidies from governmental entities on many levels. Subsidies for alternative and renewable energy technologies are lacking and have not been proposed or allowed; this goes against the spirit of our constitution. When oligarchs are allowed to rule with impunity, the citizen's safety, health and lifestyle are jeopardized.

There exists at this time, many alternative technologies which are far superior to the continued use of fossil fuel and nuclear power. This has been so for the past seventy to one hundred years and unfortunately, suppression has been the order of the day when such things are regarded by the owners of the global fossil fuel industry. This however, will not hold sway forever and there is a growing awareness by many citizens of these alternative technologies. These will soon come to the fore and replace the antiquated fossil fuel and nuclear technologies which are so destructive to our planetary biosphere. These are all but on our doorstep at this time and will soon be an undeniable presence in our world.

Most respectfully yours, Philip Khnopp, Augusta County Resident, Global Patriot.

CC: Nancy Sorrells, William Limpert, Governor Ralph Northam, Wild Virginia, Southern Environmental Law Center, Others.

