



ABRA Update #196 – September 6, 2018

Augusta County Tables Proposal for ACP Storage Yard

A proposal for a storage yard to be built in western Augusta County to serve construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) was tabled Thursday afternoon for 30 days by the county Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). The site for the proposed yard is in the West Augusta area of the county, along U.S. 250. Another proposed storage yard for the ACP near Churchville was rejected by the BZA earlier this year. Opposition to the proposed yard was led by the Augusta County Alliance, an ABRA member organization. For more on today’s BZA meeting and vote, see the *Staunton News Leader* story linked below in In the News.

Compressor Station Air Permit Hearing Set for September 11

A public hearing before the Virginia State Air Pollution Control Board on [the proposed air permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline compressor station](#) in Buckingham County, VA (the only such facility planned in Virginia for the project) will be held next Tuesday, September 11, beginning at 5 pm at the Buckingham County Middle School, 1184 High School Road, Buckingham, VA. For hearing details click [here](#).

The hearing will cap a 30-day comment period that the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality announced in early August. Several requests have been made for the comment period to be extended, including a [September 5 letter](#) from the Southern Environmental Law Center that stated:

Virginia law provides that minor NSR permit applications are subject to a public comment period of *at least* 30 days. Va. Code § 5-80-1170. In light of the technical complexity and importance to the affected community of the proposed Buckingham compressor station, DEQ should exercise its statutory discretion to afford the public additional time to comment. We therefore ask that the comment deadline and public hearing be extended to Monday, October 8, 2018.

... the members of the public who stand to lose the most if the permit is insufficient to protect air quality are members of an economically disadvantaged minority community. The Virginia Energy Plan lists as one of the objectives of the Commonwealth’s Energy Policy to “develop energy resources and facilities in a manner that does not impose a disproportionate adverse impact on economically disadvantaged or minority communities.” Va. Code § 67-101(12). A step in the right direction in fulfilling that directive is to ensure the public has ample time to consider a permit that may very well impose just such a disproportionate impact on the Union Hill community.

<p>Volunteer for ABRA’s Pipeline CSI Program</p> <p><u>Volunteer</u></p>	<p>Submit a report to the Pipeline CSI</p> <p><u>Report</u></p>	<p>Stay informed, like us on Facebook.</p> 	<p>Support ABRA financially</p> <p><u>GiveNow</u></p>
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West Virginia Considering Relaxing Stream Crossing Standards

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has opened a public comment period on proposed modifications to the West Virginia 401 Water Quality Certification for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permits, one of which is being proposed to assure that the conditions of the permit do not prevent a company from using more environmentally protective methods. Under WVDEP's proposed modifications to Special Condition C of the USACE Nationwide 12 Permit, a condition would be added to clarify that environmentally protective methods of stream crossings that take longer than 72 hours would be permitted. Comments are due by September 17. For more details, click [here](#).



WV/VA Water Quality Monitoring Program



Pipeline Visual Assessment Program Training Webinar – Thursday,
9/13



On September 13 we'll be hosting a [live webinar](#) on our [Pipeline Visual Assessment Program](#), which trains volunteers to detect and report water quality impacts from natural gas pipelines. Already participate in the program? The live webinar is a good opportunity to ask questions and brush up on how the program works.

The free webinar will be held on September 13 at 6:30 PM, [register here](#). Can't make the live webinar? All webinar registrants will receive a recording of the webinar to view at their convenience.

Hands Across the Appalachian Trail to be Held September 22

The third Annual “Hands Across the Appalachian Trail” has been announced for Saturday, September 22, from 10 am to noon at the Humpback Rocks Visitor Center, located at Milepost 5.8 on the Blue Ridge Parkway. The event is designed to highlight the necessity of protecting the Appalachian Trail from the unwanted onslaught of natural gas pipelines. Participation is free, and no registration is required.

The event is sponsored by Appalachian Voices, Sierra Club Virginia Chapter, Wild Virginia, Friends of Nelson, Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance, CCAN, Piedmont Group Sierra Club and other groups. For more information, contact Kirk Bowers at kirk.bowers@sierraclub.org.

Directions: Take Interstate 64 to Exit 99 at the top of Afton Mountain. Follow signs on Route 250 to Blue Ridge Parkway. Turn right onto Blue Ridge Parkway. Travel 5.8 miles to Humpback Rocks Visitor Center and Picnic Area.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Atlantic Coast Pipeline staging yard public hearing leads to 30 day delay on permit vote

- News Leader – 9/6/18

<https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2018/09/06/atlantic-coast-pipeline-dominion-energy-augusta-county-west-augusta-staging-yard-public-hearing-bza/1215341002/>

Augusta Senator weighs in on pipelines

- The Recorder – 9/6/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Augusta-Senator-weighs-in-on-pipelines-Recorder_20180906.pdf

Pipeline coating believed to be deadly

- The Recorder – 9/5/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Pipeline-coating-believed-to-be-deadly-Recorder_20180906.pdf

ACP/MVP pipes could already be shedding carcinogenic materials into our air and water.

Opponents ask governor to block pipeline

- The Rocky Mount Telegram – 9/6/18

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/News/2018/09/06/Opponents-ask-governor-to-block-ACP.html>

The letter, co-signed by Marvin Winstead of Nash Stop the Pipeline and nearly three dozen other groups, emphasizes Cooper's connection to Nash County.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Mountain Valley Pipeline opponents regroup as construction resumes

- Energy News Network – 9/4/18

<https://energynews.us/2018/09/04/southeast/mountain-valley-pipeline-opponents-regroup-as-construction-resumes/>

A pair of developments last week were a setback for pipeline opponents but left doors open for new strategies against the project.

Two tree sitters join fight against Mountain Valley Pipeline

- NBC10 News – 9/5/18

<https://www.wsls.com/news/virginia/new-river-valley/two-tree-sitters-join-fight-against-mountain-valley-pipeline>

The protesters are asking Gov. Ralph Northam to revoke water permits for the project.

Alamance County Commissioners give a big thumbs down to Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate

- The Progressive Pulse – 9/4/18

<http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2018/09/04/alamance-county-commissioners-give-a-big-thumbs-down-to-mountain-valley-pipeline-southgate/>

Like many landowners and environmental advocates, the commissioners said they were concerned about the potential harm caused by the proposed extension of the hotly-contested MVP.

Related:

- https://www.godanriver.com/opinion/community_viewpoint/longest-mvp-investors-benefit-rate-payers-foot-the-bill/article_ce91ce98-ad5a-11e8-81e8-7fd98a3e9bb1.html

Dominion Proposal A Total Refresh, SCC Staff Says

- Bacon's Rebellion – 8/31/18

<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/dominion-proposal-a-total-refresh-scc-staff-says/>

To make room for the new, about a dozen existing plants will be retired years before the end of their useful lives, stranding about \$450 million of depreciated costs on the company's books. Customers get the bill coming and going, paying for both sets of facilities – new and old.

Related:

- https://www.richmond.com/news/plus/scc-estimates-cost-of-new-electric-utility-law-at-almost/article_6969b9a7-1c18-50a8-9980-f45f30d35511.html

Big Picture:

The world economy could grow \$26 trillion in a decade if governments and businesses focus on climate change

- Business Insider – 9/5/18

<https://www.businessinsider.com/global-commission-on-the-economy-and-climate-report-2018-9>

So many opportunities...so many entrenched interests...so little political backbone...

Chairman authorized aide's politically charged appearances

- E&E News – 9/6/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Chairman-authorized-aides-politically-charged-appearances-EE-News_20180906.pdf

McIntyre said in his letter to the lawmakers that Pugliese does not state the views of FERC, which "speaks exclusively through its orders."

IECA seeks congressional hearings to toughen gas pipeline security

- Oil & Gas Journal – 9/4/18

<https://www.ogj.com/articles/2018/09/ieca-seeks-congressional-hearings-to-toughen-gas-pipeline-security.html>

'America First' or coal first? LNG groups want to know

- E&E News – 9/4/18

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060095637>

Administration's trade war and support for coal on "national security grounds" at odds with "Energy Dominance" agenda...the gas industry is nervous...

Permian Drillers Are Literally Burning Profit

- OilPrice – 9/4/18

<https://oilprice.com/Energy/Permian-Drillers-Are-Literally-Burning-Profit.html>

According to estimates by The Wall Street Journal, every day in the Permian companies burn around US\$1 million worth of natural gas.

100% renewables not best path to carbon-free grid – study

- E&E News: Greenwire – 9/6/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/100-renewables-not-best-path-to-carbon-free-grid_study-EE-News-Greenwire_20180906.pdf

Wind, solar and batteries can drive down emissions over the next decade, winning the deep decarbonization game means keeping policies flexible and focused on ends (eliminating CO2) rather than specific means.