



ABRA Update #201 – October 11, 2018

Army Corp Permit for MVP Suspended in Virginia

On October 4, at the request of a coalition of clean water advocates including the Sierra Club and Appalachian Mountain Advocates, the Army Corps of Engineers suspended a permit that the fracked gas Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) must have in order to build through waterways in Virginia. This action follows the October 2 federal court ruling throwing out MVP's stream crossing permit for southern West Virginia, that would have allowed MVP to blast a trench through the important Gauley, Greenbrier, and Elk rivers. Now, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must halt all work on the pipeline, as FERC's order approving the project requires that all permits be in place for construction to take place anywhere along its 303-mile route.

The action is the result of a legal challenge brought by attorneys from Appalachian Mountain Advocates on behalf of the Sierra Club, New River Conservancy, Appalachian Voices, and Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN). That challenge, pending in the 4th United States Circuit Court of Appeals, maintains that MVP is ineligible for the Virginia stream crossing permit that was suspended today.

Anne Havemann, General Counsel for CCAN, said: "It's no surprise that this troubled pipeline has run up against another roadblock, this time in Virginia. MVP has rushed this pipeline through federal and state regulatory processes without allowing time for the proper review. We have always said that there is simply no safe way to build this pipeline and we will keep fighting to protect communities, our climate, and the environment from the unneeded and harmful Mountain Valley Pipeline."

New Report Predicts Dire Consequences From Climate Change

A new report issued October 8 by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a body within the United Nations, found that a continuation of greenhouse gas emissions at their current rate could warm the atmosphere by as much as 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 degrees Celsius) by 2040.

"One of the key messages that comes out very strongly from this report is that we are already seeing the consequences of 1°C of global warming through more extreme weather, rising sea levels and diminishing Arctic sea ice, among other changes," said Panmao Zhai, Co-Chair of one of the IPCC working groups.

The report finds that limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require "rapid and far-reaching" transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) would need to fall by about 45 percent from

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2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO₂ from the air.

Concerns about global warming have been one of the major arguments voiced in opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline due to the release of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, through leaks from natural gas pipelines, and because the construction of more natural gas pipelines encourages the expanded use of fossil fuels at a time when a greater reliance on renewable sources of energy should instead be encouraged.

A link to the IPCC report is [here](#).



In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Enviros Keep Pressure on FERC to Again Halt All ACP Construction

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 10/8/18

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/116043-enviros-keep-pressure-on-ferc-to-again-halt-all-acp-construction>

SELC urged FERC to issue a complete stop work order for the entire 600-mile route and said it should require ACP to make public confidential tree felling and environmental constraint maps that were included in the limited NTP request and for all future requests.

Opinion: The rich have entitlements most of us don't

- The News Virginian – 10/6/18

https://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/opinion/guest_columnists/opinion-the-rich-have-entitlements-most-of-us-don-t/article_d2e301ac-c9d8-11e8-abfc-57ab25846c13.html

Dominion Energy reported a ten-fold increase in spending aimed at influencing state politicians in the last year, a move that corresponds with a newly approved state law that could lead to substantial increases in most Virginians' electric bills.

Highlanders weigh future of Hayfields Farm

- The Recorder – 10/11/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Highlanders-weigh-future-of-Hayfields-Farm-Recorder_20181011.pdf

Pretty much everyone agrees: the worst thing that could happen is nothing at all.

Don't miss this chance

- The Recorder – 10/11/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Dont-miss-this-chance-Recorder-editorial_20181011.pdf

Is there a way to meet VOF's conservation values and stimulate our economy at the same time?

Robeson County activists challenge Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- The Daily Tar Heel – 10/8/18

<http://www.dailytarheel.com/article/2018/10/atlantic-coast-pipeline-lumbee-1009>

More work needed protect from pipeline construction

- The Recorder – 10/11/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/More-work-needed-protect-from-pipeline-construction-Recorder_20181011.pdf

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service revised biological opinion and incidental take statement of Sept. 11 regarding impacts from the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline to endangered species is seriously flawed.

Main: What's good for Dominion isn't good for Virginia- Opinion

- The Roanoke Times – 10/9/18

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/main-what-s-good-for-dominion-isn-t-good-for/article_f9d69826-of1d-53da-9f2f-1a4a140e1378.html

Why are Virginia's leaders refusing to stand up to Dominion and protect Virginia residents? Money and power, mostly.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Stream-crossing permit suspended for Mountain Valley Pipeline in Virginia

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 10/5/18

https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/stream-crossing-permit-suspended-for-mountain-valley-pipeline-in-virginia/article_728eae8d-2401-5165-a243-c788a6dcd11b.html

Plan to build natural gas gate station at Franklin County's Summit View Business Park takes step forward

- The Roanoke Times – 10/9/18

https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/plan-to-build-natural-gas-gate-station-at-franklin-county/article_e81d0cf1-01cf-51cb-9055-1f665a9f6e48.html

Big Picture:

Major Climate Report Describes a Strong Risk of Crisis as Early as 2040

- The New York Times – 10/7/18

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/07/climate/ipcc-climate-report-2040.html>

The report, issued on Monday by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a group of scientists convened by the United Nations to guide world leaders, describes a world of worsening food shortages and wildfires, and a mass die-off of coral reefs as soon as 2040 – a period well within the lifetime of much of the global population.

Related:

- <https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/10/07/ipcc-report-says-1-5c-climate-target-reachable-only-rapid-fossil-fuel-phase-out>

- <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07102018/ipcc-climate-change-science-report-data-carbon-emissions-heat-waves-extreme-weather-oil-gas-agriculture>

Three Reasons Bernard McNamee is a Horrible Choice for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

- Union of Concerned Scientists – 10/10/18

<https://blog.ucsusa.org/sam-gomberg/three-reasons-bernard-mcnamee-is-a-bad-choice>

GOP Senators Urge EPA to Clarify CWA, Rein in State 'Abuses'

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 10/9/18

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/116055-gop-senators-urge-epa-to-clarify-cwa-rein-in-state-abuses>

The senators said a review of the handbook and other EPA materials is necessary "in light of recent **abuses** (emphasis mine) by certain states" to block or delay infrastructure projects, including interstate oil and gas pipelines. Governments' job, first and foremost, is to protect its citizens, not corporate profit. That is *exactly why* states are given the power to block projects that may harm their citizens.

UN Puts \$2.4 Trillion Annual Price Tag On Mitigating Climate Change

- OilPrice.com – 10/9/18

<https://oilprice.com/The-Environment/Global-Warming/UN-Puts-24-Trillion-Annual-Price-Tag-On-Mitigating-Climate-Change.html>

That's nearly 4% of global GDP. 4% seems doable, considering the alternative. Especially since new jobs and industries will be created, and new technologies spread around the world.

Little-noticed treaty could help delay climate catastrophe

- The Guardian -10/8/18

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/oct/08/kigali-amendment-little-noticed-treaty-could-help-delay-climate-catastrophe>

HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), which are related to refrigeration and certain industrial processes, can cause up to 11,000 times more warming, pound for pound, than CO₂.

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