



ABRA Update #204 – November 1, 2018

Augusta County Rejects an ACP Storage Yard Proposal. Again!

A proposed pipeline storage yard for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) has been denied a special-use permit by the Augusta County Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). On a 4-1 vote, the Board turned down a proposal for the facility to be built just south of West Augusta, VA. The proposal had been tabled at the Board's September and October meetings. The action marks the second time this year that the BZA rejected a storage yard in the county, having denied a permit on March 1 for a similar facility that would have been located north of Churchville. For more, see the *News Leader* story below in In the News.

Decision on ACP Virginia Compressor Station Due November 9

The final required permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be decided upon by the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board when it meets November 8 and 9 to consider a proposed air permit for the project's proposed compressor station in Buckingham County, VA. The Board will convene at 9:30 am on both days at the Greater Richmond Convention Center, Exhibit Hall Building, Level 2, Room E21-AB, 301 N. 3rd Street, Richmond, VA 23219

The [meeting agenda](#) sets forth the following:

November 8 – Review Permit for Proposed Buckingham Compressor Station

Summary of comment presentation and opportunity for those who commented at the public hearing or during the public comment period to respond to the summary of the public comment period presented to the Board.

November 9 – Applicant comment, further station presentation and Board consideration.

In preparation for the meeting, [the staff of the Department of Environmental Quality prepared a report for the Board](#) that includes the proposed permit in its final form and a review of comments submitted to the agency during the public comment period that ran from August 8 to September 21. In its report, the staff noted that 3,800 email comments were received (with one email signed by 1,100 individuals), plus over 500 written mailed comments and 60 persons presenting oral comments at a September 11 public hearing. At the November 8 meeting, further public comments can be received, but only from those persons who previously commented in writing or at the public hearing.

As [reported in last week's ABRA Update](#), the Southern Environmental Law Center wrote Air Board members on October 23 to remind them that the Board "has the statutory obligation

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to consider whether issuance of the permit is *reasonable* and whether the proposed location is *suitable*. If this Board determines that the permit should not be issued, that decision cannot be disturbed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.” For a copy of the SELC letter, click [here](#).

Objections Raised with FERC to ACP Construction Beginning in Virginia

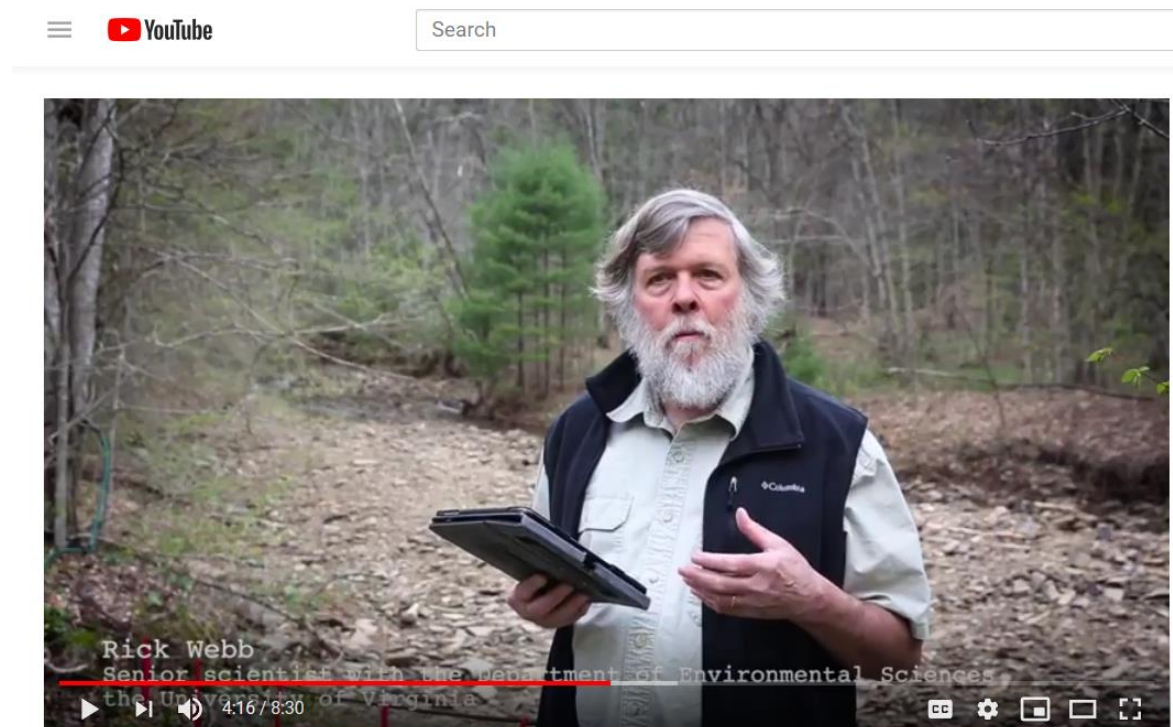
An October 19 request by Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. to commence construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline for certain portions of the project’s route in Virginia has met with strong objection from the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC). [SELC’s October 26 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) stated:

In light of the Fourth Circuit’s stay of the Forest Service right of way, the Commission should deny Atlantic’s October 19, 2018 request to proceed with construction in Virginia. The Commission should issue a stop-work order halting all construction activities on the ACP until Atlantic has an effective authorization from the Forest Service.

For more background, see the [lead article in last week’s ABRA Update](#).

The Truth Is in the Proof - New Video Profiles the Fight Against the ACP

A new video that describes the threats posed to the environment and the lives of affected property owners is now available for viewing and wider distribution. *The Truth Is in The Proof* was filmed and edited by Roanoke filmmaker Sarah Hazelgrove and sponsored by the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, an ABRA member. The 8 ½ minute video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXOlbHwu59s&t=9s>. Please share it with others!



The Truth Is in The Proof

ACP Granted Further Authority to Construct in North Carolina

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) was given further authority for construction in North Carolina by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The [October 26 Notice to Proceed](#) grants an October 2 request “to commence construction of the remaining certificated workspaces on Spreads 8, 9, 10, and 11 in North Carolina” with certain exceptions.

VOTE on November 6
*Your life, liberty and pursuit of happiness
 depend upon it!*

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

County board of zoning appeals denies Atlantic Coast Pipeline storage yard request

- News Leader – 11/1/18

<https://www.newsleader.com/story/news/2018/11/01/atlantic-coast-pipeline-augusta-county-storage-yard-dominion-energy-environment-denied-permit/1847246002/>

The pipeline storage yard will not be built in Augusta County.

Dominion sets historic Bath site mitigation plan

- The Recorder – 11/1/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Dominion-sets-historic-Bath-site-mitigation-plan-Recorder_20181101.pdf

Dominion Energy sent a cultural resource report containing mitigation measures for The Wilderness farm to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The farm in northern Bath County, owned by Robert and Roberta Koontz, was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

October Surprise: Governor Ralph Northam, Secretary Matt Strickler Tell Governor’s Advisory Council on Environmental Justice to Go Away – Literally

- Blue Virginia – 10/25/18

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/10/october-surprise-governor-ralph-northam-secretary-matt-strickler-tell-governors-advisory-council-on-environmental-justice-to-go-away-literally>

“It is hard to believe that a Southern Democratic Governor would go so far as to eliminate an advisory council on social justice in retaliation for having offended his corporate campaign contributors.” Actually, it’s not. This is Virginia. Dominion Energy’s loyal dog.

Virginia’s proposed carbon rule gets lower emissions cap, adds environmental justice component

- Virginia Mercury – 10/30/18

https://www.virginiamercury.com/2018/10/30/virginias-proposed-carbon-rule-gets-lower-emissions-cap-adds-environmental-justice-component/?fbclid=IwAR2au0T4BLp3zF-qFy1f5mBY6BdYInR5QgzYuyHwLu_UXGsoaTI8JzE1954

If approved, Virginia would become the first state in the South to regulate carbon output through that program, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, or RGGI.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

MVP Cleared to Resume Construction at WV Trail Crossing Following Court Order

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 10/25/18
<https://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/116244-mvp-cleared-to-resume-construction-at-wv-trail-crossing-following-court-order>

Opponents target Roanoke Gas for partnership with Mountain Valley Pipeline

- The Roanoke Times – 10/30/18
https://www.roanoke.com/business/news/roanoke/opponents-target-roanoke-gas-for-partnership-with-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_cbc76556-1eeb-5641-ad2d-7daacb81cf98.html

Work stopped on pipeline that exploded in Beaver County, after Pa. regulators find environmental violations

- Pittsburg Post-Gazette – 10/30/18
<http://www.post-gazette.com/business/powersource/2018/10/30/Regulators-Energy-Transfer-to-suspend-work-on-Revolution-pipeline-Beaver-DEP/stories/201810300065>
Landslides and uncontrolled soil movement. Familiar woes of Appalachian pipelines shut down repair work on failed pipeline.

Big Picture:

Plunging Emissions Mostly Not Spurred By Natural Gas Nor Renewables, U.S. Government Finds

- Forbes – 10/29/18
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcMahon/2018/10/29/plunging-emissions-mostly-not-spurred-by-natural-gas-nor-renewables-u-s-government-finds/#11d743d073c9>
Interesting how agenda sets the tone and affects the wording of news. Check the Daily Caller version of the same story below!
- <https://dailycaller.com/2018/10/29/us-power-sector-reduced-carbon-emissions/>

Chatterjee pledges no political influence after 'growing into' FERC role

- Utility Dive – 10/31/18
<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/chatterjee-pledges-no-political-influence-after-growing-into-ferc-role/541086/>
Related:
- <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/chatterjee-changed-ferc-watchers-see-a-more-focused-less-political-chair/540837/>

We Have to Save the Planet. So I'm Donating \$1 Billion.

- The New York Times – 10/31/18
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/31/opinion/earth-biodiversity-conservation-billion-dollars.html>
Hansjörg Wyss, a philanthropist and conservationist, has decided to donate \$1 billion over the next decade to help accelerate land and ocean conservation efforts around the world, with the goal of protecting 30 percent of the planet's surface by 2030.

Three Ways to Combat Climate Change Through the Courts

- The Atlantic – 10/30/18
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2018/10/three-ways-combat-climate-change-through-courts/574315/>
With the executive and legislative branches refusing to act, the judicial branch might be the last hope.

We Have A Decade To Prevent Dangerous Climate Change: These 10 Policies Can Limit Warming To 2°C

- Forbes – 11/1/18

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2018/11/01/theres-no-silver-bullet-on-climate-change-but-these-10-policies-can-win-on-climate/#6dc6fd6d1118>

Visualizing the Global Transition to Green Energy

- Visual Capitalist – 10/31/18

<http://www.visualcapitalist.com/global-transition-to-green-energy/>

Most renewable energy sources are becoming cheaper and quicker to produce, and it's speeding up widespread adoption.

New Renewables Cheaper Than Old Coal In Southeast Asia

- Clean Technica – 10/30/18

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/10/30/new-renewables-cheaper-than-old-coal-in-southeast-asia/>

The financial equation simply doesn't add up any more, and with the declining costs of renewables, there is no need for these countries to bother with traditional coal-fired power plants.