



ABRA Update #212 – January 10, 2019

ACP Compressor Station Permit Granted by Virginia State Air Board

The proposed compressor station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, planned for the Union Hill community in Buckingham County, VA received a needed air permit on January 8 from the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board. The Board's 4-0 vote came after it had, since originally considering the proposal in November, twice deferred a vote and added an additional public comment period to accommodate views on new information that had been provided by the applicant, Dominion Energy.



Several hundred people jammed a hotel ballroom in suburban Richmond for the Air Board meeting.

ABRA and its members have been strong opponents of the compressor station. In a [January 4 letter](#), sent on behalf of ABRA, several of its member organizations and other concerned conservation groups, the Southern Environmental Law Center wrote to request that the Board disapprove the proposed air permit for the Buckingham compressor station on the grounds that:

- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Atlantic have provided the Board with inadequate, preliminary demographic information;
- DEQ has not considered environmental justice as a factor in its site suitability analysis; and
- DEQ is incorrect that compliance with NAAQS is sufficient to demonstrate that there will not be a disproportionate adverse impact on the Union Hill Community.

Please support ABRA's important work by clicking [here](#).

Continuing, the SELC letter pointed out that “the single most important factor for the Board to consider when determining whether it is “suitable” to site the compressor station in Union Hill is whether doing so would adversely affect an economically disadvantaged or minority community—in other words, an environmental justice community.”

For a copy of the motion adopted by the Air Board in approving the permit, click [here](#). For DEQ’s statement on the action, click [here](#).

For more coverage of the Air Board meeting, see In the News, below.

Second Augusta County CSI Workshop Set for January 14 in Deerfield

ABRA will conduct a workshop for prospective volunteers as part of its Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI) program on **Monday, January 14, 10 am to 2 pm.**, at the **Deerfield Community Center, 64 Marble Valley Rd, Deerfield, VA.**

For details and registrations, click [here](#).

A workshop for volunteers in the Stuarts Draft area of Augusta County was held last Saturday, January 5, attended by 50 persons (see photo below).



In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Air board unanimously approves Buckingham compressor permit

- Virginia Mercury – 1/8/19

https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/01/08/air-board-unanimously-approves-buckingham-compressor-permit/?fbclid=IwAR3kXB7v56iswQMkN2mrZaNmAs1xMKzdYyeDb_GATLkPIIPG1cz-CkC_sM

Related:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/former-board-members-challenge-state-data-ahead-of-key-vote-on-pipeline-facility/2019/01/07/4a49852a-1288-11e9-b6ad-9cfd62dbboa8_story.html?fbclid=IwAR2Ogljj7midbQeJyjkRGFegpIKTwJdR_sWZX5QLiapAUZnXq6BPqIHuAPY&utm_term=.041223ca0b8e

<https://grist.org/article/historically-black-community-could-face-a-toxic-facility-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>

https://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/hissing-shouts-of-shame-as-pipeline-station-gets-permit/article_06af7ccb-1b8a-5298-b12c-7269f2c7a69e.html

Court rejects pipeline company's request to expedite

- Recorder, 1/10/19
<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Court-rejects-pipeline-company's-request-to-expedite-Recorder-1-10-19.pdf>
 On Dec. 28, the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals rejected the pipeline company's request to move up oral arguments from March to January. A March briefing, Dominion argued, could delay the project up to a year, cost \$20 million a week in idled construction expenses, and force the release of nearly 3,000 workers

Indian tribes offered \$1 million in pipeline deal

- Virginia Mercury, 1/9/19
https://www.virginiamercury.com/blog-va/law-firm-with-richmond-office-offered-tribes-1-million-each-to-eliminate-pipeline-opposition/?fbclid=IwAR3gVVoVFqWdHnBn4HZaYoUNQ1h6EbhJTVokrOca7C_23HPVXrunEBIPhWs
 American Indian tribes along the Atlantic Coast Pipeline route, including two Virginia tribes, were offered \$1 million each in exchange for agreeing to refrain from opposing the 600-mile natural gas project.

Energy Lobbyist Calls for Legislature to Condemn 'Rogue' Enviros

- WV Public Broadcasting – 1/9/19
<http://www.wvpublic.org/post/energy-lobbyist-calls-legislature-condemn-rogue-enviros#stream/o>
 Dominion Energy's West Virginia State Policy Director Bob Orndorff called on the West Virginia legislature to adopt a resolution condemning "rogue environmental groups," contending that their opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline "hurts the state economy of West Virginia."

Hampton Roads urgently needs the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 1/9/19
https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/wagner-hampton-roads-urgently-needs-the-atlantic-coast-pipeline/article_dcf0f42d-8b75-5d43-9833-7aeff28508c4.html?fbclid=IwAR3TAXijRnrVFUZpoeRFE-e5z7b35auH14X1VphyUc8vXfVQ3nDOX_cTZUk
 State Senator Frank Wagner, representing the Hampton Roads region, says: "Without the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the Port doesn't have a chance at bringing LNG bunkering to Hampton Roads. We're competing with New York, New Jersey, Savannah, Jacksonville, and major ports around the globe. If we don't move fast, we're going to miss our opportunity and the tens of thousands of jobs it would bring."

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Opponents want Mountain Valley Pipeline to stop work until lawsuit date is set

- WSET – 1/2/19
https://wset.com/news/local/opponents-want-mountain-valley-pipeline-to-stop-work-until-lawsuit-date-is-set?fbclid=IwAR1MTq3c5iEsGjItycgC87XrqQasVYzq1z5Mow9q4_DQsJJdlyp3yxDALB8

Mountain Valley Pipeline says expansion will not cause excess natural gas supply

- S&P Global, 1/9/19
<https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/natural-gas/010919-mountain-valley-pipeline-says-expansion-will-not-cause-excess-natural-gas-supply>
 Mountain Valley was responding to protests by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and groups led by Appalachian Mountain Advocates.

Inside the fight to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Blue Ridge Free State – 1/10/19
<https://blueridgefreestate.com/2019/01/10/9-inside-the-fight-to-stop-the-mountain-valley-pipeline/>
 A podcast about the 2018 battles to oppose the MVP (40 minutes).

Big Picture:

Shutdown is paralyzing required environmental analyses for energy projects

- Bloomberg News – 1-4-19
<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Shutdown-is-paralyzing-required-environmental-analyses-for-energy-projects-1-4-19.pdf>
 "The Fish and Wildlife Service isn't able to work on fresh court-ordered analysis of Dominion Energy Inc.'s \$7 billion Atlantic Coast pipeline."

The Green New Deal Rises Again

- New York Times – 1/8/19

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/08/opinion/green-new-deal.html?fbclid=IwAR1LqWeZaMWqdtP9PXtrzSlxBVmlXVwJQcHE5oF5q9NXIDJ-7rc2agW12KU>

NYT Columnist Tom Friedman, who first coined the term “green new deal” in a 2007 column, revisits the subject, observing: “My own definition of a Green New Deal, which has evolved since 2007 as the technology has gotten better and the climate problem has gotten worse, remains focused on how a green revolution in America can drive innovation, spur new industries and enhance our security.”

Pipeline critics seek to maintain state control

- E&E News Energywire – 1-10-19

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Pipeline-critics-seek-to-maintain-state-control-Energywire-1-10-19.pdf?fbclid=IwAR15gm3c-qYsKbKMoNMsmWiLu6L3t1AYQGsHd15tqMzoFHXJf46kLdqUP94>

Discusses pending cases before the U.S. Supreme Court involving federal pre-emption of state authority on pipeline decisions.