

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 4
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Atlantic Coast Pipeline
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
Supply Header Project
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000,
CP15-554-001, and CP15-555-000

January 10, 2019

Mr. Matthew R. Bley
Director, Gas Transmission Certificates
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
707 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Approval of Interim Right-of-Way and Work Area Stabilization Plans

Dear Mr. Bley:

We have reviewed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC's (Atlantic) and Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.'s (DETI) December 19, 2018 Interim Right-of-Way and Work Area Stabilization Plans and authorize Atlantic and DETI to implement the plans as described, with the exception of resumption of the Tar River horizontal directional drill, which is not authorized at this time.

After careful consideration, staff concludes the measures proposed by Atlantic and DETI in their respective plans are necessary to ensure the protection of environmental resources while the relevant agencies determine how best to comply with the orders of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The activities included in the plans are not expected to result in adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species, and undertaking these activities to stabilize disturbed work areas will ensure that any existing impacts are limited to the authorized workspaces. Maintaining the status quo, without implementation of these plans, would result in areas being subject to erosion and soil movement for an indeterminate period of time, potentially resulting in negative impacts on environmental resources adjacent to disturbed rights-of-way. Furthermore, requiring immediate restoration of the entire right-of-way to pre-construction conditions by

removal of existing pipe segments would require significant additional construction activity, also causing further environmental impacts.

We note that none of the stabilization measures authorized in this letter (except for monitoring) apply to federal lands. No excavation or other soil disturbing construction activities have taken place on federal lands that were the subject of the litigation in the Fourth Circuit. Therefore, no active stabilization measures are needed to protect those areas. I remind you that Atlantic and DETI must comply with all applicable terms and conditions of the Commission's October 13, 2017 Order Issuing Certificates, as well as the conservation measures identified in other agency authorizations required by federal law.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bowman, Project Manager
Division of Gas – Environment
and Engineering

Document Content(s)

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