



ABRA Update #220 – March 7, 2019

Resolution Condemning ACP Foes Progresses in WV House of Delegates

A resolution condemning the “assaults on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline” (ACP) from citizen groups was approved by the Rules Committee of the West Virginia House of Delegates on March 6. The proposal was tentatively scheduled for a floor vote before all 100 members of the House of Delegates on March 7 (at this writing had not been taken up). The West Virginia General Assembly is due to adjourn by March 9, by midnight.

[House Resolution 11](#) was introduced February 6 with 49 sponsors, nearly half of the House of Delegates membership. The resolution’s introduction was prompted by a January 8 speech before a West Virginia energy conference by a Dominion Energy lobbyist, who called opponents of the ACP as “rogue environmentalists” and urged the state legislature to condemn them. The speech prompted a [strong editorial in the Charleston Gazette-Mail](#) that called the lobbyist’s recommendation “insulting.”

In response to the introduction of the resolution, Angie Rosser, Executive Director of the West Virginia Rivers Coalition wrote members of the House Rules Committee, to which the resolution had been referred for consideration, to not advance the proposal “as it undermines the rights of impacted citizens to recourse when laws are violated, and it undermines the legislative branch’s expectation that the laws it creates will be enforced.” As a result, some co-sponsors removed their names from the resolution, but not enough to stop the resolution from being approved by the Rules Committee.

Investment Community Beginning to Question Viability of ACP and MVP

Over the past week over 100 news articles regarding increasing questions in the financial community about the viability of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), as well as the Mountain Valley Pipeline, have come to ABRA’s attention. Typical of the comments was one from an analyst writing in *Forbes* on March 7: “Investors can no longer be entirely sanguine about the possibility that one or both of these projects could be abandoned.”

The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* reported on March 4 that Moody’s Investor Service had rated the ACP “credit negative” because of mounting costs and uncertainty over the project in the wake of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision not to review a December decision to vacate the U.S. Forest Service permit for the project to cross beneath the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Moody’s stated: “The appeals court’s decision and the subsequent appeal mean that a longer legal process will ensue, adding costs and uncertainty to when and how the project will be completed.”

Links to the *Times-Dispatch* and *Forbes* articles are listed below in In the News.

<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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In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

4th Circuit decision prompts Wall Street concern over pipeline

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 3/4/19

https://www.richmond.com/news/plus/th-circuit-decision-prompts-wall-street-concern-over-pipeline/article_ee339c15-c39c-5885-a95a-918a8229ff1.html

The rating agency's concern intensified after the 4th Circuit's dismissal last week of Dominion's request for the full court to reconsider the panel's decision and the company's immediate announcement that it would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court within 90 days.

Citizen oversight of Virginia's environmental regulations increasingly looks like a farce

- Virginia Mercury – 3/5/19

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/03/05/citizen-oversight-of-virginias-environmental-regulations-increasingly-looks-like-a-farce/>

It was not the proudest moment for the water board, and the few statements board members did make raise more questions than they answer.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline construction unlikely to recommence prior to September

- My Buckhannon – 3/5/19

<https://www.mybuckhannon.com/atlantic-coast-pipeline-construction-unlikely-to-recommence-prior-to-september/>

Student Reporters in West Virginia Find Atlantic Coast Pipeline Offers Only Two Dozen Permanent Jobs

- DeSmog – 3/1/19

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/03/01/few-permanent-jobs-atlantic-coast-pipeline-west-virginia-pbs-student-reporting-labs>

We've been saying this for years. Nice to finally hear a Dominion employee admit it.

Pipeline progress thwarted

- Rocky Mount Telegram – 3/1/19

<http://www.rockymounttelegram.com/News/2019/03/01/Pipeline-progress-thwarted.html?fbclid=IwAR2G2hO2nnMPqIVzgaE03UfoPOu1-yKv9Vluqyf8hNV1k-w6S9AebXSCaX8>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Organic farmers say known carcinogen found in pellets dropped in MVP construction

- WVVA – 3/6/19

<https://wvva.com/news/top-stories/2019/03/06/cancer-causing-chemical-from-mvp-construction-destroys-organic-farms/>

Organic farmers near the path of the Mountain Valley Pipeline say suspicious pellets dropped from a helicopter in the sky are ruining their livelihood.

VA state board lets pipeline permit stand, despite violations

- Bay Journal – 3/4/19

https://www.bayjournal.com/article/va_state_board_lets_pipeline_permit_stand_despite_violations

The Virginia State Water Control Board voted on Friday not to revoke a permit allowing a natural gas pipeline to be built across streams as it winds its way across the state's southwest corner.

The Fight For The Atlantic Coast & Mountain Valley Pipelines

- Forbes – 3/7/19

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/greatspeculations/2019/03/07/the-fight-for-the-atlantic-coast-mountain-valley-pipelines/#1fe033b86c14>

Two proposed long-haul natural gas transportation projects—the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP)—are now in peril. That's the result of a decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia in late February.

Editorial: Something's not right with water board

- The Roanoke Times – 3/6/19

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-something-s-not-right-with-water-board/article_63befee8-a6ad-593d-9fbc-5e3848af87b6.html

So...does the water board have the power to revoke a certification once it's issued, or doesn't it?

Big Picture:

Trump Again Seeks Deep Cuts in Renewable Energy Funding

- Bloomberg – 3/7/19

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-07/trump-said-to-again-look-for-deep-cuts-in-renewable-energy-funding>

The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, which provides hundreds of millions of dollars a year in grants and other financial assistance for clean energy, has financed research into technologies ranging from electric vehicles to energy projects powered by ocean waves. It has been credited with financing research to help make the cost of wind power competitive with coal, and cutting the costs of LED lighting.

An Illinois bill leans into the most contentious part of the Green New Deal

- Vox – 3/7/19

<https://www.vox.com/2019/3/7/18251566/green-new-deal-renewable-energy-illinois-bill>

Illinois is weighing a 100 percent renewable energy bill that includes jobs, equity, and social justice.

Shale gas boom slows progress on renewables in PJM grid territory

- Energy News Network – 3/5/19

https://energynews.us/2019/03/05/southeast/shale-gas-boom-slows-progress-on-renewables-in-pjm-grid-territory/?fbclid=IwAR3d8ibFqdnwNYT494XTHmK_nGkCs8ebEwxiSSZrmylR3v9PLdqyDDnLqF8

Wind and solar generation on the nation's largest regional electric grid lags other parts of the country.

U.S. Approves \$3.2B Appalachian Natural Gas Pipeline

- Oil Price – 3/1/19

<https://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/US-Approves-32B-Appalachian-Natural-Gas-Pipeline.html>

TransCanada said on Friday that the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had approved the full in-service of the Mountaineer XPress natural gas pipeline project.

Mitch McConnell wants a Green New Deal vote. Democrats should take him up on it.

- Vox – 3/6/19

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/3/6/18248437/green-new-deal-mitch-mcconnell-schumer-democrats>

Normal politics leads to disaster. It's time for the Democratic Party to act, not posture meekly.

Wetland mud is 'secret weapon' against climate change

- BBC News – 3/6/19

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47472602>

Researchers studied the carbon locked away in cores of wetland mud from around the world. They say that the preservation of coastal wetlands is critical for mitigating global warming.

