



ABRA Update #222 – March 21, 2019

FERC Announces Review Schedule for Proposed MVP Extension

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has announced its schedule for issuing a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Southgate Project, a proposed extension of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) into North Carolina. Specifically, the proposal is a 73-mile natural gas pipeline connecting with the MVP in Pittsylvania County, VA and extending to Rockingham and Alamance Counties in North Carolina. The Southgate Project would also include construction of a 29,000-horsepower compressor station in Pittsylvania County (about half the size of the proposed Buckingham compressor station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline). The pipeline would transport 375 million cubic feet of natural gas per day.

[FERC's March 14 notice of the FEIS schedule](#) is:

- Issuance of Notice of Availability of the final EIS: December 19, 2019
- 90-day Federal Authorization Decision Deadline: March 18, 2020

The Southgate Project has encountered stiff opposition since it was first proposed in mid-2018. In September, the Alamance County Commissioners adopted a resolution in opposition to the project. The March 15 FEIS notice acknowledges that “major issues raised during scoping include project need, water quality degradation, environmental impacts, and private property rights and valuation.”

ABRA Pipeline Air Force To Hold Drone Meet-up

On Saturday, March 30th, the Pipeline Air Force, a component of ABRA's Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI) program, will hold a UAV (drone) meet-up. The meeting will afford participants to share skills, knowledge, experience, and ideas regarding UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) technology all day from 10am-4pm in the [Rockfish Valley Community Center](#), in Nelson County, VA. The session will focus on how to apply skills and experience as a remote pilot into ABRA's Pipeline CSI program. Space is limited. To register (by 3/23), click [here](#).

<p><i>Volunteer for ABRA's Pipeline CSI Program</i></p> <p><u>Volunteer</u></p>	<p><i>Submit a report to the Pipeline CSI</i></p> <p><u>Report</u></p>	<p><i>Stay informed, like us on Facebook.</i></p> 	<p><i>Support ABRA financially</i></p> <p><u>GiveNow</u></p>
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PIPELINE AIR FORCE
**UAV
MEET-UP**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH
10AM TO 4PM**

**ROCKFISH VALLEY CC
190 ROCKFISH SCHOOL LANE
AFTON.VA**

Learn how to plug your skills + experience as a remote pilot into our Pipeline CSI program to defend our safety + water quality



Space is limited
Lunch provided

Pipeline CSI
Compliance Surveillance Initiative

RSVP-> biy.ly/2TGCn3j

QUESTIONS? BEN@BLUERIDGEGEOGRAPHICS.COM

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

A revised generation plan leaves Dominion's case for its pipeline in shambles

- Virginia Mercury – 3/20/19

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/03/20/a-revised-generation-plan-leaves-dominions-case-for-its-pipeline-in-shambles/>

For Dominion's ACP, each time it's a different story. Each time it's less convincing. Nobody, except Dominion's C-Suite, needs this pipeline.

Investors worry about proposed pipeline project

- The Recorder – 3/21/19

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Investors-worry-about-proposed-pipeline-project-Recorder_20190321.pdf

Investor money begins to pull back from Dominion and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Cooper Administration rebuffs investigators, won't let employees cooperate on pipeline inquiry

- Milbank Monitor – 3/20/19

<https://milbankmonitor.com/cooper-administration-rebuffs-investigators-wont-let-employees-cooperate-on-pipeline-inquiry/20/03/2019/>

Related:

- <https://www.thestate.com/news/state/north-carolina/article227931954.html?fbclid=IwAR2IvwryzLa-n5bRCVp44zKNbFQtqHKTtiaC3pxddWFOeZKYokIqWi3evzc>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Delegate pushes for an explanation from DEQ on Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Virginia Mercury – 3/18/19

https://www.virginiamercury.com/blog-va/delegate-pushes-for-an-explanation-on-from-deq-on-mountain-valley-pipeline/?utm_source=The+Virginia+Mercury&utm_campaign=06eafef020-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_03_18_08_04&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6eb596ca77-06eafef020-31494253&fbclid=IwAR2VmMvs2DuyMoWAabbTxcNZ2jvh6K7g4Bvd99EDAj8HroxGfeLONgoNRXs

Del. Chris Hurst, D-Montgomery, has asked the Department of Environmental Quality to issue a stop work order on the Mountain Valley Pipeline until a lawsuit filed by the state over hundreds of construction violations is resolved.

Anatomy of a Farce, Part 2: How Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring and the State Water Control Board Ignored the Law to Protect Corporate Criminal Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Medium – 3/19/19

<https://medium.com/@jonsokolow/anatomy-of-a-farce-part-2-how-virginia-attorney-general-mark-herring-and-the-state-water-control-af50e3fd54c9>

Discussion of how and why Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring and the State Water Control Board have misled Virginians with regard to the Water Board's decision *not* to revoke MVP's Section 401 permit.

FERC Issues EIS Schedule for MVP's Southgate Expansion

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 3/19/19

https://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/117765-ferc-issues-eis-schedule-for-mvps-southgate-expansion?fbclid=IwAR06f_kEzWAO5349qH4G_NolzY3BYt_opFD4w-W1DKBhG9iGYzIUPORmSd4

The FEIS is due to be issued on Dec. 19, with a 90-day federal authorization decision deadline scheduled for March 18, 2020, according to a filing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission [CP19-14]. A draft EIS is expected to be issued in July.

Big Picture:

The Green New Deal: The enormous opportunity in shooting for the moon.

- Medium – 2/20/19

<https://medium.com/otherlab-news/decarbonization-and-gnd-b8ddd569de16>

The mere act of electrification has a powerful effect on efficiency: electrifying the US economy from carbon free sources will reduce the amount of energy needed by more than half. This simple but immensely important fact changes everything.

Coal companies join with Rick Perry to derail Trump nominee

- Politico – 3/19/19

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/03/19/coal-companies-rick-perry-trump-1228041>

David Hill, a former Energy Department counsel, had criticized the Trump administration’s push to offer financial help to coal power plants.

Chatterjee: Transmission could be resilience docket solution

- Utility Dive – 3/14/19

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/chatterjee-transmission-could-be-resilience-docket-solution/550551/>

The emphasis on transmission is new for Chatterjee, who has focused on the ability of plants to store fuel onsite for grid resilience.

Federal judge demands Trump administration reveal how its drilling plans will fuel climate change

- The Washington Post – 3/20/19

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/20/federal-judge-casts-doubt-trumps-drilling-plans-across-us-because-they-ignore-climate-change/?fbclid=IwAR2A3vdoeVIoK2Kt4qRtryLjqC98Zi3XCvM4DdUV_dp8WUCfjaGgIPJISQc&utm_term=.89c4941765b9

The ruling temporarily blocks drilling on 300,000 acres of leases in Wyoming.

Bill to Protect Pipelines From Public Records Requests Moves Forward in North Dakota

- Citizen Truth – 3/20/19

<https://citizentruth.org/bill-to-protect-pipelines-from-public-records-requests-moves-forward-in-north-dakota/>

Senate Bill 2209 (SB 2209) in North Dakota, a seemingly nondescript amendment to North Dakota’s open records law, would shroud pipelines in a veil of secrecy and make records related to pipeline projects exempt from disclosure requirements.

Climate change could make insurance too expensive for most people – report

- The Guardian – 3/21/19

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/mar/21/climate-change-could-make-insurance-too-expensive-for-ordinary-people-report>

“The sector is concerned that continuing global increases in temperature could make it increasingly difficult to offer the affordable financial protection that people deserve, and that modern society requires to function properly.”

IEEFA update: Get out now – Norway’s fossil fuel epiphany

- IEEFA – 3/14/19

http://ieefa.org/ieefa-update-get-out-now-norways-fossil-fuel-epiphany/?fbclid=IwARodVEYK4rBAO7oKHEtgGbgpLnlZSlAPUk9Tlz5766Yt1ibojlRjkAe6B_c

The fund was created because the nation’s leaders knew that someday the financial gains from oil and gas would run out. That someday is coming. Soon.