



ABRA Update #224 – April 3, 2019

MVP Southgate Project Is Unnecessary and Harmful to the Public Interest

The proposed extension of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) into North Carolina – the so-called Southgate Project – has been called “unnecessary and harmful to the public interest” in comments filed March 31 by Thomas Hadwin of the Friends of Central Shenandoah.

Regarding whether the project is needed, Hadwin states:

Establishing the need for a project involves basic, common sense steps. First, a case is made based on objective information that the demand for gas is increasing. This could be traditional residential, commercial or industrial uses of gas, or gas needed to generate electricity in new or converted power plants. If more gas usage is shown to be occurring, then it should be determined if existing facilities can be used or expanded to meet the growing need.

Low-cost or no-cost options such as more efficient energy use should also be part of this consideration. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that options not within the lead federal agency’s normal jurisdiction should be part of the analysis of alternatives, although FERC has always avoided meeting those legal requirements. The Commission has customarily limited its assessment of alternatives to gas pipelines only. Usually FERC has considered choices that originate only from the proposed starting point of the project to the point of final delivery.

If a new pipeline is recommended, it should be determined if it provides a net economic benefit to the market it serves.

Continuing, Hadwin argues that:

- There are no unmet demands for gas in North Carolina that could absorb this excess capacity. North Carolina is awash in excess pipeline capacity.
- Transco, which has served North Carolina reliably for decades, has already added several million Dth/d of new capacity that is available to the region.
- Contrary to what is claimed by the applicant, the Southgate pipeline is the most expensive option for transporting gas to the area to be served. Existing pipelines that are currently connected to PSNC (a utility company serving 25 counties in North Carolina, which was recently acquired by Dominion Energy) can transport gas at a fraction of the price of what is proposed in the rates for the MVP and Southgate projects.

A copy of Hadwin’s full comments is available [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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In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Environmental activists fight Atlantic Coast Pipeline from the sky

- The News & Advance – 3/30/19

https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/environmental-activists-fight-atlantic-coast-pipeline-from-the-sky/article_e8572448-0129-50e8-9f51-5ab74a613ea5.html

Slip remediation in Lewis County, WV, to begin in two weeks

- The Exponent Telegram – 4/3/19

https://www.wvnews.com/theet/news/slip-remediation-in-lewis-county-wv-to-begin-in-two/article_74ae3e65-7eac-594f-887b-bae7a9faa20e.html

Dominion will apply “Best-in-Class” construction methods to clean up slope failure that was allowed by those same “Best-in-Class” construction methods. What a relief!

ACP proponents, opponents dispute fallout from work stoppage

- The Robesonian – 4/2/19

<https://www.robsonian.com/news/121801/ACP-proponents-opponents-dispute-fallout-from-work-stoppage>

Retailers Still Push To Escape Dominion Monopoly

- Bacon’s Rebellion – 4/1/19

<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/retailers-still-push-to-escape-dominion-monopoly/>

“If the policy goal is now to slow demand, to prevent the need to build more utility-owned plants in Virginia, isn’t this the better and more reliable path? The utility-managed demand response efforts funded by ratepayers aren’t having much impact.”

Del. Jennifer Carroll Foy: Dominion Energy’s Attempt to Walk Away from Energy Efficiency Commitment Calls Into Question Their Ability to Negotiate in Good Faith

- Blue Virginia – 3/28/19

<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/03/del-jennifer-carroll-foy-dominion-energys-attempt-to-walk-away-from-energy-efficiency-commitment-calls-into-question-their-ability-to-negotiate-in-good-faith>

The party with all the power seldom negotiates in good faith. Why should it? It’s time to stop being shocked by Dominion’s behavior and treat the company as what it is...a bad actor that manipulates markets and governments and rips off its customers.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Work continues on Mountain Valley Pipeline, despite repeated problems

- The Roanoke Times – 3/31/19

https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/work-continues-on-mountain-valley-pipeline-despite-repeated-problems/article_8fa60afb-2b80-5ca8-90a8-a73a6119e59e.html

Captured regulators of all levels totally asleep at the wheel...or deliberately steering the public off the nearest cliff? Somehow, nothing rises to the level of “serious problem” when it comes to the construction of profitable fossil fuel projects and the desires of their “generous” parent companies.

Malbon: Pipeline has corrupted our government

- The Roanoke Times – 3/29/19

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/malbon-pipeline-has-corrupted-our-government/article_b6b53c5a-9e61-5952-befa-287e34a3e035.html

Let’s face it, our government was corrupted *long* before the MVP and ACP came around.

Va. pipelines set off ‘an alarm bell’ for skeptical energy regulator

- Virginia Mercury – 4/1/19

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/04/01/va-pipelines-set-off-an-alarm-bell-for-skeptical-energy-regulator/>

Interesting interview with FERC Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur.

Big Picture:

Federal judge declares Trump's push to open up Arctic and Atlantic oceans to oil and gas drilling illegal

- The Washington Post – 3/30/19

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/30/federal-judge-declares-trumps-push-open-up-arctic-atlantic-ocean-oil-gas-drilling-illegal/?utm_term=.d85fc9f95507

Administration's all-out assault on environmental protection hits another speed bump.

FERC to Address Pipeline Overbuilding and Excessive Returns

- JD Supra – 3/29/19

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/ferc-to-address-pipeline-overbuilding-12194/>

This may better explain the FERC NOI that we reported on last week.

Climate change group scrapped by Trump reassembles to issue warning

- The Guardian – 4/4/19

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/apr/04/climate-change-trump-advisory-group-report-warning-global-warming>

Panel was disbanded after a Trump official voiced concerns that it did not have enough members 'from industry'.

Trump signs permit for construction of controversial Keystone XL pipeline

- The Washington Post – 3/29/19

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/03/29/trump-signs-permit-construction-controversial-keystone-xl-pipeline/?fbclid=IwAR2KokYtw3bdvxNqssDTcQNUy9FuIofnlhCg5ypp-mogcoiFzJFH5qfdUkU&utm_term=.f50c58e8e658

"The Keystone XL pipeline is one of the most studied pieces of infrastructure in American history." Where, oh *where*, have we heard *THAT* before?

NAACP Reveals Tactics Fossil Fuel Industry Uses to Manipulate Communities of Color

- DeSmog – 4/1/19

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/04/01/naacp-report-fossil-fuel-industry-manipulative-tactics-communities-color>

Powerful industry uses under-handed tactics to "divide and conquer" disenfranchised communities. This has a familiar ring to it.

Climate change: Warning from 'Antarctica's last forests'

- BBC News – 4/3/19

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-47806440>

The last time the Earth's atmosphere held this much CO₂, shrub forests grew at the South Pole and sea level was 30-60 feet higher. Just sayin'.

IRENA: 140 Gigawatts of Solar and Wind Capacity Installed Globally in 2018

- GreenTech Media – 4/2/19

https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/140-gigawatts-of-solar-and-wind-capacity-added-in-2018-irena-says?utm_medium=email&utm_source=Daily&utm_campaign=GTMDaily#gs.48quls

Two-thirds of the world's new generation capacity came from renewables last year, with solar leading the charge.