

The Recorder

Inclusive, independent, indispensable.

Neglect of 5-mile pipeline access road questioned

April 25, 2019

WARM SPRINGS – The Allegheny Blue Ridge Alliance has asked the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality why it has proclaimed that its review of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline covered “every foot” of the project, when recently discovered evidence contradicts that assertion.

In an April 19 letter to DEQ director David Paylor, ABRA executive director Lewis Freeman called attention to a recent controversy concerning a proposed five-mile ACP access road in Bath County, the April 18 ABRA newsletter said.

He was referring to a land condemnation lawsuit brought by Dominion Energy affiliate ACP against landowners Jeannette Robinson and her family.

Freeman’s letter noted DEQ staff had recently told ABRA that the agency “was not aware of the proposed road because it had not been submitted to your agency as part of the plans submitted by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC. However, the road in question was part of the plans submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and approved as part of the certificate issued for the ACP.”

Freeman continued, “DEQ informed the State Water Control Board during its consideration of approving a 401 certificate for the ACP that it had reviewed ‘every foot’ of land disturbance proposed by ACP related to pipeline construction. Why was this statement made to the water board when it was not true? Can you provide clarification? The access road in question crosses an environmental easement held by the Virginia Outdoor Foundation and was proposed by ACP LLC and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission without consultation with VOF. VOF wrote FERC on April 9 taking strong exception to the situation.”