



## *ABRA Update #237 – July 18, 2019*

### **West Virginia Legislators Tour MVP Construction Sites**

Five members of the West Virginia House of Delegates on July 16 toured construction sites along the Mountain Valley Pipeline route in Summers County, WV, near where the pipeline would cross the Greenbrier River. The tour, which was hosted by the West Virginia Rivers Coalition, an ABRA member, was followed by a public forum attended by over 50 people.



### **Virginia Legislators Ask FERC to Suspend ACP Certificate**

Eighteen members of the Virginia General Assembly – 4 Senators and 14 Delegates – wrote the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission late last week asking the Commission to issue a stop work order and revoke the Certificate of Public Convenience that was issued to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). [The legislators' June 11 letter](#) stated:

The ACP was first announced in 2014, and approved by FERC in 2017 with the issuance of the Certificate. The pipeline developers have never demonstrated public need for the ACP. Falling renewable energy prices, a growing body of evidence that the developers have

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overstated the demand for gas, and recent upgrades to existing pipeline infrastructure that have increased total availability capacity, further indicate the lack of need for the ACP. At a time of rapid climate change, it would lock not just Virginia but the entire Southeast region into decades of climate-disrupting fossil fuel use. Additionally, Virginia ratepayers would be on the hook for these decades-long unnecessary costs.

The letter was spearheaded by Sen. Creigh Deeds, whose 25<sup>th</sup> District includes Highland, Bath and Nelson County, through which the ACP route prominently passes. A [similar letter to FERC was sent April 12](#) by 22 members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

### **Friends of Nelson Hear About Landslides, Fossil Fuel Development**



There was a standing room only crowd at a June 30 Friends of Nelson meeting in Lovingson, VA that featured presentations by Dr. Mary Finley-Brooks, University of Richmond, on the impacts of fossil fuel development (above), and by Ann Carter Witt, Virginia Department of Mining, Minerals and Energy, on the landslides associated with Hurricane Camille in 1969.

### ***In the News:***

#### **Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

##### **A Resolution Condemning Pipeline Challengers Passed Easily. A Pipeline Lobbyist Wrote It.**

- ProPublica – 7/11/19

<https://www.propublica.org/article/dominion-energy-lobbyist-wrote-west-virginia-pipeline-resolution>

A Dominion Energy lobbyist drafted the resolution and bought meals for its supporters in West Virginia's legislature. He says there's nothing unusual about it. The public wasn't told.

##### **Interfaith organization launches Climate in the Pulpits program**

- Augusta Free Press - 7/14/19

<https://augustafreepress.com/interfaith-organization-launches-climate-in-the-pulpits-program/>

### **Official: Atlantic Coast Pipeline seeks to lease Amherst site for storage, transporting workers**

- The News & Advance – 7/15/19

[https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/official-atlantic-coast-pipeline-seeks-to-lease-amherst-site-for/article\\_262cc0bd-ef49-5977-8a3d-8cf1609f2f24.html](https://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/official-atlantic-coast-pipeline-seeks-to-lease-amherst-site-for/article_262cc0bd-ef49-5977-8a3d-8cf1609f2f24.html)

Dominion Energy proposes to use about 45 acres in the back area of L. Barnes Brockman, Sr. Business and Industrial Park in Amherst, according to town officials.

### **'We Can't Sit on the Sidelines and Be Climate Deniers,' Dominion VP Warns Natural Gas Industry**

- DeSmog – 7/16/19

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/07/16/dugeast-climate-deniers-dominion-raikes-natural-gas>

But VP still encourages members to push gas and its “benefits”, adding that they must stay engaged in the process, or “this policy will be set without us.” If only we could be so lucky.

Related:

- <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/07/14/dominions-carbon-cutting-arent-good-enough/>

## **Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other**

### **Belinsky: Here's how the pipeline is lawless**

- The Roanoke Times – 7/17/19

[https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/belinsky-here-s-how-the-pipeline-is-lawless/article\\_fcaf1e47-d567-5b7c-acf9-4463afc87733.html](https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/belinsky-here-s-how-the-pipeline-is-lawless/article_fcaf1e47-d567-5b7c-acf9-4463afc87733.html)

MVP's continued construction is clearly out-of-step with regard to the federal and state legal requirements .

### **Construction materials for pipeline washed into Smith Mountain Lake**

- The Roanoke Times – 7/17/19

[https://www.roanoke.com/business/construction-materials-for-pipeline-washed-into-smith-mountain-lake/article\\_oeb9197a-4696-5979-83a7-aa095c1c3086.html](https://www.roanoke.com/business/construction-materials-for-pipeline-washed-into-smith-mountain-lake/article_oeb9197a-4696-5979-83a7-aa095c1c3086.html)

The displaced mats were listed in the FERC document as a “communication report,” which means the agency will oversee talks on how to resolve the problem. But if history is any guide, the FERC will do absolutely nothing about it.

### **Photos, Video: Excavator for Mountain Valley Pipeline Topples Over, Spills Fluids on Organic Farm**

- Blue Virginia 7/16/19

<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/07/photos-video-excavator-for-mountain-valley-pipeline-topples-over-spills-fluids-on-organic-farm>

### **MVP's violations show 'complete absence of any and all meaningful regulation'**

- Virginia Mercury – 7/15/19

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2019/07/15/mvp-shows-complete-absence-of-any-and-all-meaningful-regulation/>

MVP is being forced to change its workplan almost daily to fix erosion and landslide-related issues on its project, which is missing multiple permits and is facing multiple lawsuits. Why are regulators working so hard to look the other way?

## **Big Picture:**

### **The Energy 202: Broad group of green organizations releases climate platform ahead of 2020 election**

- The Washington Post – 7/18/19

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2019/07/18/the-energy-202-broad-group-of-green-organizations-releases-climate-platform-ahead-of-2020-election/5d2f37001ad2e5592fc35931/>

The platform is being released as Democratic presidential candidates are forming and beginning to present to voters their own ideas about how to address climate change.

## **FERC approves Kinder Morgan's Gulf LNG project**

- Houston Chronicle – 7/17/19

<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/FERC-approves-Kinder-Morgan-s-Gulf-LNG-project-14102776.php>

Outgoing commissioner Democrat Cheryl LaFluer backed the Kinder Morgan project this week, but still voiced concerns that the commission continues to avoid evaluating the significance of greenhouse gas emissions.

Related:

- <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2019/07/14/activists-demand-regulator-reject-all-new-energy-projects-her-last-weeks-job-because>

## **Could Climate Change Spark a Financial Crisis? Candidates Warn Fed It's a Risk**

- Inside Climate news – 7/15/19

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/15072019/climate-change-financial-crisis-fed-powell-presidential-candidates-stranded-assets>

Some of the Democrats running for president are urging the U.S. central bank to actively confront climate risks to protect the nation's financial system.

## **Former Shale Gas CEO Says Fracking Revolution Has Been 'A Disaster' For Drillers, Investors**

- DeSmog – 6/23/19

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2019/06/23/former-shale-gas-ceo-says-shale-revolution-has-been-disaster-drillers-investors>

Missed this one a couple of weeks ago. Still totally worth a read!

## **Three Strikes, You're Out: The Unneeded Jordan Cove Project**

- Natural Resources Defense Council – 7/11/19

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/gillian-giannetti/three-strikes-youre-out-unneeded-jordan-cove-project>

## **Overcoming Barriers To 100% Clean Energy, Part One: The Electricity Distribution Network**

- Forbes – 7/15/19

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2019/07/15/overcoming-barriers-to-100-clean-energy-part-one-the-electricity-distribution-network/#2720d6a4606d>