



ABRA Update #238 – July 25, 2019

Dominion Responds to FERC’s Request for Tox Info on ACP Pipe

Leaching of coating chemicals used in pipe materials for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is “not a significant pathway and will not result in human health risks,” so stated a [July 23 filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\) by Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. \(DETI\)](#), managing partner for the ACP project. DETI’s filing was in response to [FERC’s July 3 request for toxicological environmental and health information on the coatings used on ACP pipe.](#)

FERC had asked DETI to:

Evaluate and report on the toxicity of the FBE (Fusion Bonded Epoxy) from all potential exposure pathways including from direct and indirect human contact, ingestion or inhalation; as well as environmental pathways (leachability and mobility) in air, soils, surface water, and groundwater. The evaluation should likewise include an analysis of human and environmental exposure from the degradation of FBE due to exposure to sunlight, and sloughing (chalking) of the material.

In summarizing its 319-page response to the FERC request, DETI stated:

According to 3M (supplier of the coating materials), chalking is a phenomenon that occurs when epoxy-based coatings are exposed to UV for an extended period of time. The chalk is a thin layer (microns thick) that adheres to the surface of the pipe that is composed of polymer degradation products (not typically known with specificity) that are created by exposure of the surface of the pipe to UV light from the sun.

Although 3M has no conclusive evidence at this time to confirm their exact identity, the degradation products are generated in low quantities, have low water solubility, and are therefore not expected to enter the environment in amounts capable of producing an adverse human health effect. . . . DETI is undertaking an evaluation of the FBE chalking residue including composition, toxicity, and potential for environmental exposure. The results of this evaluation will be submitted by August 23, 2019, or as soon as they are available.

The environmental and safety implications of pipe coating degradation has been raised with FERC and other regulatory agencies for over a year by William Limpert, a Bath County landowner impacted by the approved ACP route and a member of ABRA’s Steering Committee. Mr. Limpert and others within ABRA are evaluating the DETI response. It is not clear at this time what further action FERC might now take on the issue.

<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

Richmond-area group marks 75 weeks of pipeline protests

- Richmond2Day – 7/25/19

<http://richmond2day.com/richmond-area-group-marks-75-weeks-of-pipeline-protests>

he group has demonstrated weekly for over a year outside of the Governor's office and six months outside of the Attorney General's office.

Pipeline coating not risky feds told by Dominion Energy

- The Recorder – 7/25/19

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Pipeline-coating-not-risky-feds-told-by-Dominion-Energy-Recorder_20190725.pdf

Dominion responds to FERC questions with, essentially, "Nothing to see here". But testing is ongoing.

New Front In Dominion's War Against Competition

- Bacon's Rebellion – 7/25/19

<https://www.baconsrebellion.com/wp/new-front-in-dominions-war-against-competition>

Dominion Energy Virginia has opened a new and aggressive front in its economic war against companies seeking to offer Virginians retail choice for electricity service.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Pipeline Politics; MVP and ACP Face Rocky Road

- NPR WVTF – 7/23/19

<https://www.wvtf.org/post/pipeline-politics-mvp-and-acp-face-rocky-road>

Construction on the ACP is on hold, while work continues on the MVP. Several legal and environmental challenges have muddied the waters on pipeline construction in Virginia and one analyst says pipeline politics in this country are changing.

Mountain Valley Pipeline Flips Another Excavator, Sends Huge Tree Stump Rolling Off Right-of-Way that Almost Hits Bystanders

- Blue Virginia – 7/20/19

<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/07/mountain-valley-pipeline-flips-another-excavator-sends-huge-tree-stump-rolling-off-right-of-way-that-almost-hits-bystanders>

Will it take someone getting killed to prompt Virginia regulatory authorities to step in?

Mountain Valley Pipeline protesters making their voices heard

- WFXR News – 7/20/19

<https://www.wfxrtv.com/news/mountain-valley-pipeline-protesters-making-their-voices-heard>

A group of 40 protesters descended upon the Mountain Valley Pipeline site in Montgomery County, Virginia Saturday morning.

Big Picture:

So You Think We're Reducing Fossil Fuel Use? Think Again.

- Forbes – 7/20/19

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2019/07/20/so-you-think-were-reducing-fossil-fuel-think-again/#553b613f52fb>

It turns out that the cost a low-carbon energy system is about the same as business-as-usual, \$65 trillion versus \$63 trillion, over about 30 years. It's just that more of the total cost is in up-front capital costs instead of fuel costs - \$28 trillion versus \$11 trillion.

Moody's Buys Climate Data Firm, Signaling New Scrutiny of Climate Risks

- The New York Times – 7/24/19

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/24/climate/moodys-ratings-climate-change-data.html>

Moody's Corporation has purchased a controlling stake in a firm that measures the physical risks of climate change, the latest indication that global warming can threaten the creditworthiness of governments and companies around the world.

LaFleur's exit will leave 3 commissioners — and anxiety

- E&E News – 7/18/19

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060753713>

Related:

- <https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/McNamee-Glick-clash-over-climate-EE-News-7-19-19.pdf>

NextEra Energy Predicts 50% Renewable Energy In US By 2030

- Clean Technica – 7/22/19

<https://cleantechnica.com/2019/07/22/nextera-energy-predicts-50-renewable-energy-in-us-by-2030/>

NextEra has the largest market capitalization of any utility holding company. If it says renewables will account for half of all electricity a decade from now, other companies should sit up and take notice. Government leaders, too.

Senate Advances Bill That Would Gut Environmental Review of Oil Pipelines, Other Large Infrastructure Projects

- Center for Biological Diversity – 7/24/19

<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/senate-advances-bill-would-gut-environmental-review-oil-pipelines-other-large-infrastructure-projects-2019-07-24/>

The legislation would exempt infrastructure projects from detailed environmental reviews and public input that are required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

As Climate Changes, Taxpayers Will Shoulder Larger U.S. Payouts To Farmers

- NPR – 7/24/19

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/07/24/744541143/as-climate-changes-taxpayers-will-shoulder-larger-u-s-payouts-to-farmers>

The federal government spends, on average, about \$8 billion a year subsidizing crop insurance for farmers. That number could be a lot bigger this year.

Major U.S. cities are leaking methane at twice the rate previously believed

- Science Magazine – 7/19/19

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/07/major-us-cities-are-leaking-methane-twice-rate-previously-believed>

The new findings come courtesy of data gathered by aircraft over six U.S. cities: Washington, D.C.; Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York City; Providence; and Boston.

Taking Aim at PJM's 10-Hour Duration Capacity Rule for Energy Storage

- GreenTech Media – 7/22/19

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/taking-aim-at-pjms-10-hour-duration-capacity-rule-for-energy-storage#gs.s1uotz>

PJM's rule was developed for old pumped hydro facilities. Recent analyses indicate that 4-hr battery storage of up to 4,000 MW could be supported on the PJM grid, with no adverse effects, beyond displacing some fossil-fueled backup generators.

Machine Learning vs. Climate Change: AI for the Greener Good

- Singularity Hub – 7/21/19

<https://singularityhub.com/2019/07/21/machine-learning-vs-climate-change-ai-for-the-greener-good/>

Some jobs are just too big and complex for human operators to manage. Cheer the Robot Overlords!