



ABRA Update #253 – November 14, 2019

Duke Energy Projects ACP to be Operational in 2022

Lynn Good, Chairman and CEO of Duke Energy, says that the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) will be completed “in late 2021 with full-in service in the first half of 2022,” according to a transcript of the company’s third quarter earnings conference call with investment analysts on November 8. Continuing, Ms. Good said:

We believe this pipeline remains the best option to meet our customers’ needs. We remain committed to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the significant benefits that will bring to our customers and our region. It will provide much needed natural gas to an underserved area of the Southeast and will allow us to retire pulling in it and replace them with cleaner burning natural gas fired plants to help meet our carbon reduction targets. In addition, it supports critical resiliency need for some of the country’s most important military output.

Appalachian Headwaters: Healing Environmental Degradation

This is the first in a series of periodic profiles of programs and activities that seek to protect, enrich and restore the natural resources of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region.

The damage to the ecosystems of the central Appalachian region from coal mining and the absence too often of successful reclamation has long been a blight on much of the Appalachian region. However, that is beginning to change, thanks to a new venture in West Virginia.



<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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Appalachian Headwaters is a 501(c)(3) organization begun in 2016 to develop sustainable economic opportunities while restoring damaged ecosystems in central Appalachia. Specifically, the organization is working to restore productive native hardwood forests and improve water quality on former surface mine sites in the region. Its Appalachian Beekeeping Collective and Native Plant Horticulture Initiative programs focus on teaching and supporting people in our region as they learn to participate in growth industries. It is also working to help displaced or underemployed workers to earn income while repairing our natural environment. A new program started last year is Camp Waldo, a summer camp for youth located in Summers County, WV on the banks of the Greenbrier River.

Beekeeping – Appalachian Headwaters is committed to using natural beekeeping techniques that are bee-friendly and free from synthetic pesticides and antibiotics. Each year, it trains and supports a class of new beekeepers as they learn the art, science, and business of beekeeping. Through the fall and winter, a series of programs introduce beginners to the skills and knowledge required for successful beekeeping. A class of trainee beekeepers is then selected from the pool of people who attended the classes. In late spring, the new partners are provided with strong hives of overwintered bees and the equipment necessary for their hives to thrive. Headwaters provides these materials on a sliding scale based on household income. Many of the members receive their materials for free, while others have their portion of the cost deducted from honey sales later in the season.

Native Plant Restoration - Appalachian Headwaters is developing the Appalachian Native Plant Horticultural Initiative to train workers to collect and grow high-demand, low-supply, pollinator-friendly native plants. The program will serve the growing restoration and non-timber forest product industries in Appalachia and sell plants to the expanding mid-Atlantic native landscaping market. The Initiative will train Appalachian workers to fill this gap in the marketplace. Headwaters will provide the training, tools and staff to support trainees, helping to establish a strong native plant industry in central Appalachia.

Restoring Forests and Streams – Appalachian Headwaters is working with leading scientists to re-establish productive native hardwood forests and to restore water quality on former mountaintop removal mines and other large-scale surface mine sites in our region. The program will cultivate commercially viable forests composed of native hardwoods and non-timber forest products on what are currently severely degraded ecosystems. The projects are intended to improve impaired mountain streams so they can again support native aquatic life, helping the region's recreation and tourism industry. Without intervention, hundreds of thousands of acres in Appalachia will be unable to support native vegetation and wildlife for generations to come

Camp Waldo – Starting in 2019, Appalachian Headwaters began operating [Camp Waldo](#), an overnight youth summer camp program focused on science, nature, arts, and adventure. The camp offers traditional summer camp activities, such as swimming, canoeing camping, art, music, hiking, soccer and other games. But campers also enjoy some unique activities, such as beekeeping, vegetable gardening, native plant propagation, astronomy, reading and writing stories, ecology, theater and time in a science lab. The camp's goal is to give youth in the region a fun experience in learning and to help them become more self-reliant.

For more information about Appalachian Headwaters and its programs, visit its website at <https://appheadwaters.org/>.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Duke Energy abruptly alters pipeline financing plan

- The Recorder – 11/14/19

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Duke-Energy-abruptly-alters-pipeline-financing-plan-Recorder_20191114.pdf

Stock price drops significantly as Duke issues new stock, raising revenue to cover ACP-related income that won't materialize in 2021.

Related:

- <https://www.fitsnews.com/2019/11/12/duke-energys-pipeline-problems-rattle-investors/>

Sean McGarvey column: Don't leave construction workers in regulatory limbo

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 11/13/19

https://www.richmond.com/opinion/columnists/sean-mcgarvey-column-don-t-leave-construction-workers-in-regulatory/article_8dd5c7c7-0f50-52f8-8855-f86653118cfa.html

Comparing several months of economic inconvenience for a few thousand people against the cost of losing Hampton Roads, for a local example, is simply a distraction from a bigger issue. Union members can build renewable energy projects, too!

Senior advisor to lawmakers: Gov. Cooper's office didn't meddle in DEQ permitting of Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- The Progressive Pulse – 11/8/19

<https://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2019/11/08/senior-advisor-to-lawmakers-gov-coopers-office-didnt-meddle-in-deq-permitting-of-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>

Related:

- <http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2019/11/12/gop-swings-and-misses-with-pipeline-attacks-on-cooper/>

Dominion Virginia plan for 1.5 GW new peaking capacity will lead to more gas plants, NGOs fear

- Utility Dive – 11/7/19

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/dominion-virginia-plan-for-15-gw-new-peaking-capacity-will-lead-to-more-ga/566809/>

3 E's: The Top 3 Climate Action Items for VA Leaders in 2020

- Natural Resources Defense Council – 11/9/19

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/walton-shepherd/3-es-top-3-climate-actions-vas-leadership-2020>

Here's how Virginia's new climate and clean energy majority can tackle climate change and energy equity right out of the gate.

New Lazard Report on “Levelized Cost of Energy” Highlights Why Virginia Should Ditch Fossil Fuels, Go All-Out for Clean Energy

- Blue Virginia – 11/8/19

<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/11/new-lazard-report-on-levelized-cost-of-energy-highlights-why-virginia-should-ditch-fossil-fuels-go-all-out-for-clean-energy>

The bottom line is that, strictly based on “Levelized Cost” considerations, it basically makes no sense to build new fossil fuel-fired power plants, or nuclear power plants for that matter.

Black Friday Deals for Energy Companies via The Nature Conservancy

- Blue Virginia – 11/8/19

<https://bluevirginia.us/2019/11/black-friday-deals-for-energy-companies-via-the-nature-conservancy>

The Nature Conservancy appears to have no qualms about selling their public relation services to companies looking to “greenwash” their image.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Valley Activists Aid Mountain Valley Pipeline Opponents

- NPR WMRA – 11/11/19

<https://www.wmra.org/post/valley-activists-aid-mountain-valley-pipeline-opponents>

Attendees discuss the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipelines, and FERC's role in their construction.

Crawford: Why pipelines will lead to higher energy prices

- The Roanoke Times – 11/12/19

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/crawford-why-pipelines-will-lead-to-higher-energy-prices/article_f3389b5a-460a-5e9f-84ba-0903fb500662.html

As gas use for power generation plateaus and falls, decline in pipeline utilization will lead to rising unit costs for delivered gas...and higher power bills.

Big Picture:

How to Cut U.S. Carbon Pollution by Nearly 40 Percent in 10 Years

- The Atlantic – 11/13/19

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/11/bipartisan-carbon-tax-columbia-study/601897/>

A bill in Congress could slash American greenhouse-gas emissions. It's even bipartisan—if you squint.

E.P.A. to Limit Science Used to Write Public Health Rules

- The New York Times – 11/11/19

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/11/climate/epa-science-trump.html>

Public health experts warned that studies that have been used for decades — to show, for example, that mercury from power plants impairs brain development, or that lead in paint dust is tied to behavioral disorders in children — might be inadmissible when existing regulations come up for renewal.

The climate chain reaction that threatens the heart of the Pacific

- The Washington Post – 11/12/19

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/world/climate-environment/climate-change-japan-pacific-sea-salmon-ice-loss/>

The reduction in winter sea ice off Japan's northern coast starves a current of dense, salty, nutrient-rich water "feeds" the ecology of the deep northern Pacific.

FBI now investigating the way in which Pennsylvania approved Mariner East pipeline

- The Philadelphia Inquirer -11/12/19

<https://www.inquirer.com/business/energy/mariner-east-pipeline-fbi-investigation-pennsylvania-governor-tom-wolf-20191113.html>

The FBI's investigation has focused on whether Wolf administration officials forced staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to ignore shortcomings and approve the pipeline's construction permits.

Fate of PennEast natgas line is unclear

- Kallanish Energy – 11/11/19

<https://www.kallanishenergy.com/2019/11/11/fate-of-penneast-natgas-line-is-unclear/>

The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals last week refused the company's bid to rehear a case involving eminent domain of state-owned lands needed for the 110-mile natural gas pipeline.

Rethinking Future Investments in Natural Gas Infrastructure

- Greentech Media – 11/8/19

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/rethinking-future-investments-in-natural-gas-infrastructure>

Cities and utilities across the United States are starting to reject natural gas — and not just for environmental reasons.

Renewable Energy Gives Farmers Another Reason To Love It

- Clean Technica – 11/11/19

<https://cleantechnica.com/2019/11/11/renewable-energy-gives-farmers-another-reason-to-love-it/>

Deployment of renewables can offset the negative impacts of hydropower on surface and ground waters, as well as reduce water used for cooling fossil fuel power plants. That's good for agriculture.