



ABRA Update #271 – April 9, 2020

Issue Highlights . . .

- ACP Survey Claims Are Contested as Outdated
- Energy Efficiency Industry Is Fastest Growing Employer in Energy Sector
- WV Biological Assessment Rule Virtual Public Hearing Scheduled for April 20
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ACP Survey Claims Are Contested as Outdated

Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC's has contended to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that bat surveys it conducted in 2015 should be considered "current." This contention was challenged in an April 2 letter to FERC by the Southern Environmental Law Center. SELC pointed out that the surveys were valid only for two years, in accordance with established guidelines by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The SELC letter also a similar problem exists for mussel surveys done by the ACP in Virginia and North Carolina. For a copy of the SELC letter to FERC, click [here](#).

Energy Efficiency Industry Is Fastest Growing Employer in Energy Sector

Jobs associated with energy efficiency now number 2.38 million, making it the second largest employer segment in the overall energy industry and the fastest growing segment of the industry. This is one of the findings of a the newly released *2020 U.S. Energy & Employment Report*, issued jointly by the National Association of State Energy Officials and Energy Futures Initiative, a nonprofit think tank. The energy efficiency industry covers both the production and installation of energy-saving products and the provision of services that reduce end-use energy consumption.

Other highlights of the report include:

- The energy industry overall employed 6.9 million people at the end of 2019.
- Electric power generation companies employed 896,000 persons in 2019, 40% of whom worked for solar or wind energy firms.
- Energy efficiency firms added 300,000 new jobs over the past 4 years and 54,000 new jobs in 2019, 45% of all the new jobs created last year in the entire energy sector.

For a link to the full report, an executive summary and a webinar, click [here](#).

WV Biological Assessment Rule Virtual Public Hearing Scheduled for April 20

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection will conduct a virtual public hearing on April 20, from 6 to 8 pm, on its proposed biological assessment rule that defines how the agency uses the presence of aquatic life to determine whether a stream is meeting the state's water quality standards, and if it needs help to reduce pollution so it can support a healthy

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ecosystem. The virtual hearing is in place of a regular public hearing that had been scheduled for March 26. For a summary and copy of the rule, click [here](#).

To participate in the hearing:

By internet– Go to: <https://zoom.us/j/975579059>. Enter Meeting ID: 975 579 059

By phone - Dial: (646) 558-8656. When prompted, enter Meeting ID: 975 579 059

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dominion: Significant new natural gas generation not viable

- AP News – 4/8/20

<https://apnews.com/3c711d503a304e67310a62e63a123b74>

Related:

- <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/dominion-prepares-to-file-virginia-irp-without-natural-gas-buildout/575507/>

Outdated pipeline surveys need updates from Dominion

- The Recorder – 4/9/20

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Outdated-pipeline-surveys-need-updates-from-Dominion-Recorder_20200409.pdf

Surveys supporting ACP's former permits are no longer valid. Some expired three years ago!

Zoning/Natural Gas Act: Federal District Court Addresses Preemption Issue

- JD Supra – 4/3/20

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/zoning-natural-gas-act-federal-district-84894>

Discusses the court decision supporting ACP's FERC Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity over Nelson County, VA's ordinance restricting "critical facilities" construction in flood hazard areas.

Pipeline opponent wants appraisers off his property

- The Wake Weekly – 4/8/20

<https://wakeweekly.com/stories/pipeline-opponent-wants-appraisers-off-his-property.205899>

Virginia bill will put more pressure on Dominion Energy to justify cost recovery

- Energy News Network – 4/6/20

<https://energynews.us/2020/04/06/southeast/virginia-bill-will-put-more-pressure-on-dominion-energy-to-justify-cost-recovery/>

Bill allows SCC some oversight of Dominion's accounting shenanigans once again.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Limpert: Here's why pipelines are dangerous

- The Roanoke Times – 4/8/20

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/limpert-heres-why-pipelines-are-dangerous/article_e27ca6e9-0754-5968-bff6-5207bd5968cb.html

As if explosions and landslides weren't enough!

New Pipeline Construction is Non-Essential & Endangers Us Now More Than Ever; Protect All Rural Regions from Virus

- Blue Virginia – 4/6/20

<https://bluevirginia.us/2020/04/new-pipeline-construction-is-non-essential-endangers-us-now-more-than-ever-protect-all-rural-regions-from-virus>

Unbuilt pipelines have, by definition, never carried critical energy supplies, so our economy is in no way reliant on them. The pipelines fighting to resume construction in Virginia will not be completed in time to positively affect the economic fallout of the current public health crisis, though they may exacerbate it by pushing forward now. - That said, *somebody* must maintain erosion and sediment controls on areas that have already been disturbed.

Normane: Correcting the record on pipeline activity

- The Roanoke Times – 4/8/20

https://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/normane-correcting-the-record-on-pipeline-activity/article_2f4901c8-c13e-5b37-826e-629a9eodf9a9.html

The (Oil & Gas) Empire Strikes Back...in Op/Ed form...Meanwhile, shady business practices continue, unabated, behind Door #2 (below).

- https://www.dailyindependent.com/news/lawsuit-contaminated-soil-was-big-run-bound/article_4da12740-75de-11ea-a132-3bfadfe19bde.html

Big Picture:

Coronavirus Is a Dress Rehearsal for Climate Change

- The Nation – 4/8/20

<https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/coronavirus-climate-change-rehearsal-for-climate-change/>

We can flatten the curve on climate change, too—but only by altering the balance of power in Washington.

FERC eases enforcement rules

- E&E EnergyWire – 4/3/20

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FERC-eases-enforcement-rules-EE-Energywire-4-3-20.pdf>

The rollbacks are part of wider efforts aimed at helping the electric and natural gas sectors as they respond to the spread of the novel coronavirus, according to FERC.

Oil and Gas Pipelines Are Still Being Built as the Rest of the Economy Shuts Down

- Truthout – 4/5/20

<https://truthout.org/articles/pipelines-are-still-being-built-as-the-rest-of-the-economy-shuts-down/>

Related:

- <https://www.nationofchange.org/2020/04/06/amid-covid-19-pandemic-some-pipeline-projects-push-forward-while-others-falter-nationwide/>

In the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic, Construction Is Set to Resume on the Keystone Pipeline

- The New Yorker – 4/7/20

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/daily-comment/in-the-midst-of-the-coronavirus-pandemic-construction-is-set-to-resume-on-the-keystone-pipeline>

Related: **Alberta's \$5.3 Billion Backing of Keystone XL Signals Vulnerability of Canadian Oil**

- <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/03042020/keystone-pipeline-alberta-oil-coronavirus-canada-saudi-arabia-russia-climate-chante>

New York State Codifies Fracking Ban in Budget

- Natural Resources Defense Council – 4/3/20

<https://www.nrdc.org/experts/marisa-guerrero/new-york-state-codifies-fracking-ban-budget>

This measure comes five years after Governor Andrew Cuomo initially banned fracking in New York State, which, while monumental, was accomplished through executive action, leaving it vulnerable to jettison by future governors. Codifying the ban makes it permanent, protecting generations to come.

We're Thinking about Climate Change the Wrong Way

- Scientific American – 4/8/20

<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/observations/were-thinking-about-climate-change-the-wrong-way/>

Rather than convince other nations to “do their part,” the U.S. should develop clean energy technologies and make them cheap enough for everyone to adopt.

Related:

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidcarlin/2020/04/08/america-needs-a-green-marshall-plan-to-fight-covid-19-and-climate-change/#32eeb2b47943>

Oil Companies Are Collapsing, but Wind and Solar Energy Keep Growing

- The New York Times – 4/7/20

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/07/business/energy-environment/coronavirus-oil-wind-solar-energy.html>

Related:

- <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/04/06/the-coronavirus-is-hitting-renewable-energy-supply-chains-factories.html>