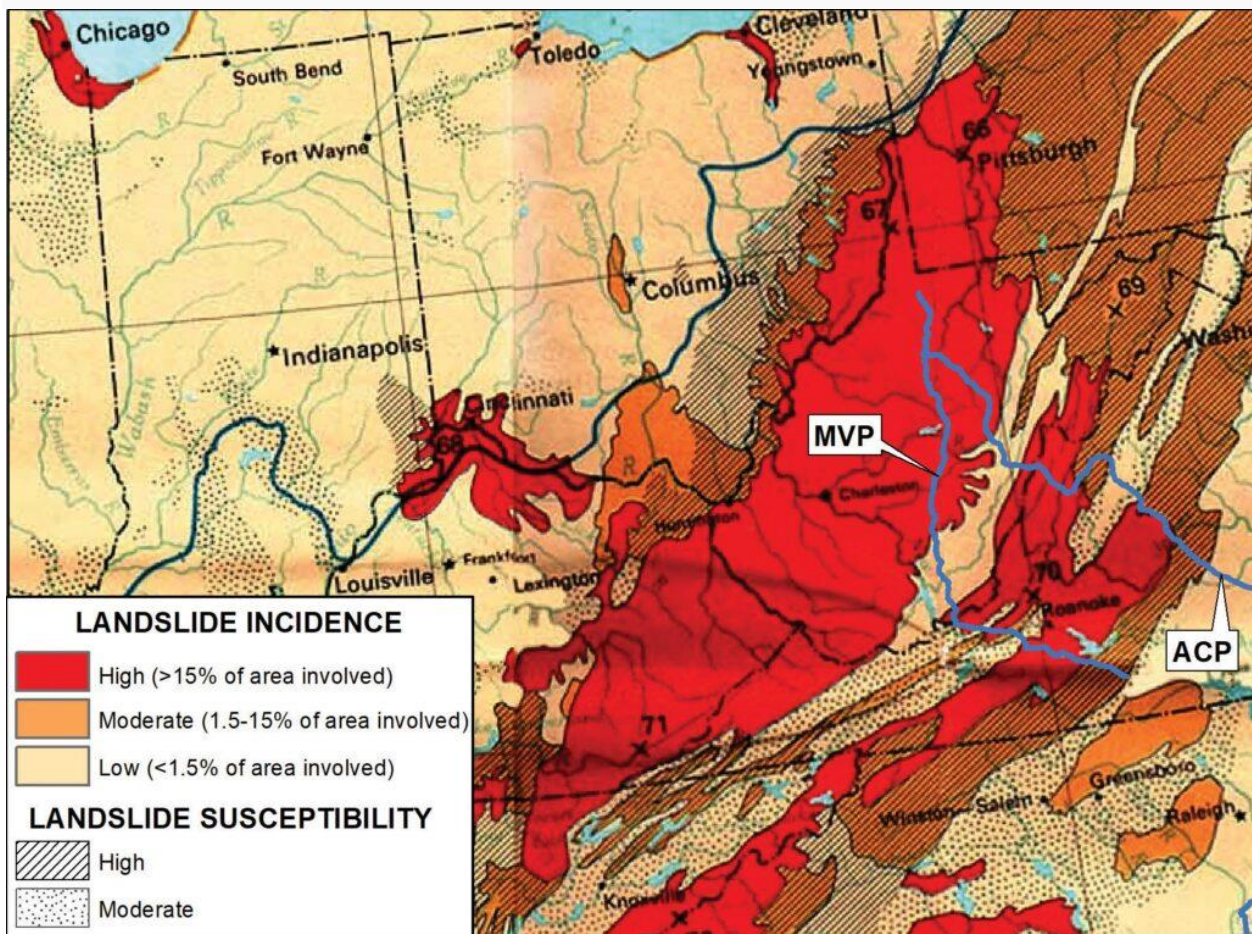


# The Recorder

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## Report: landslides imperil pipelines

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Expanded US Geological Survey map shows frequency of, and susceptibility to, landslides. Red areas have the highest rates of landslides. Both ACP and MVP routes pass through landslide-prone red areas. (Courtesy ABRA)

MONTEREY — The routes of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline pass through the most landslide-prone landscape in the United States, according to a new study released June 11 by the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance.

“Landslides and the ACP: An in-depth examination of the threat landslides pose to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline” examines the hazards accompanying landslides and pipeline construction and evaluates the issue as it relates to the ACP. The report, prepared by Andrew Young, ABRA compliance and data management analyst, points out 150 miles of the ACP route traverse landslide-prone areas.

The study concludes the “potential for landslides along the ACP route, and the threat they present to affected communities and water supplies due to sediment runoff and debris flows, were inadequately evaluated by the regulatory agencies responsible for issuing the project’s required permits,” a news release stated.

Several examples of landslides resulting from earth disturbance caused by pipeline construction are included in the study. It also points out landslides can occur long after there is an earth disturbance due to the fragile topography and unusually steep slopes of the central Appalachian Mountains in Virginia and West Virginia. The study cites a current study of landslide incidents that have occurred in Nelson County and western Albemarle County as a result of earth disturbance caused by Hurricane Camille in 1969. In the ensuing 50 years, there have been nearly 6,000 identifiable landslide incidents. Once the terrain is disturbed, there is a long-term impact on their stability, the study notes.

The report says the route for the ACP was chosen before the sponsoring companies, Dominion Energy and Duke Energy, had conducted analyses of the impacts the project would have on the fragile Appalachian topography.

The study concludes, “Regulators, legislators and other officials at the federal state and local levels who have had a role in making or influencing decisions on the construction of the ACP are strongly urged to reexamine and correct those decisions that helped launch this project. It is not too late to avoid the catastrophe that the ACP will surely bring to the Appalachian Highlands should its construction proceed, and operations begin.”