

## **FERC: Don't Give Atlantic Coast Pipeline Two More Years to Build its Unneeded and Destructive Project**

- With a projected cost of \$8 billion and a proposed route across the Appalachian Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway, two national forests, steep landslide-prone mountains, narrow mountain ridges, and environmental justice communities, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would be one of the nation's most expensive gas pipelines—and one of its most destructive.
- ACP's permitting problems are entirely self-inflicted. Atlantic either ignored or gravely underestimated the serious risks and obstacles inherent to the route it chose for the ACP. From the beginning, the public correctly understood that the ACP would be destructive and dangerous.
- Atlantic's commitment to this risky and highly damaging route has delayed construction by years. A more reasonable project could have been constructed by now. Since May 2018, the ACP has lost *eight* required permits, and the final route of project is still *unknown* almost six years into the process. Court decisions resulted in a complete shutdown of construction in December 2018, and less than 6% of the project is complete.
- The ACP unfairly burdens African American, indigenous, and low-income communities along its route. After four years of questioning their existence, Atlantic and regulators now acknowledge that the proposed gas-fired compressor station in Union Hill, Virginia is in a historic, predominantly Black community. Atlantic likewise picked a predominantly Black part of Northampton County for its sole North Carolina compressor station.
- Because Atlantic's permitting problems are self-inflicted and the resulting delays were foreseeable, there is no good cause for FERC to extend the Certificate to allow Atlantic to continue to stubbornly adhere to its unreasonable preferred route.
- Since 2017, the region's energy future has undergone a seismic shift away from gas-fired power generation making FERC's original finding that the ACP is needed obsolete. The newly enacted Virginia Clean Economy Act will rapidly propel Virginia to renewable energy. North Carolina is on a similar trajectory because of the state's Clean Energy Plan and Duke Energy's corporate wide carbon reduction targets.
- In light of these changes, FERC should deny the request to extend its Certificate Order. The ACP is not needed, and its construction will only unnecessarily harm private property, communities, and the environment along the pipeline's proposed route.
- In January 2020, Virginia—the site of over half of the ACP's proposed route—told the Supreme Court that in light of the mounting evidence that the pipeline is not needed, the ACP threatens Virginia's natural resources without clear corresponding benefits.