

The Recorder

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Dominion's pipeline coating concerns still unaddressed; more review needed

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Editor, The Recorder,

Dominion's recent Tox Strategies report to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission concludes no public health or environmental issues from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline pipe stockpile in Morgantown, W.Va. Nevertheless, this report does not close the door, nor end the discussion regarding possible negative health and environmental impacts from the fusion bonded epoxy coating on the pipes for the ACP, Mountain Valley Pipeline, and other pipelines across our country.

This is a report from a Dominion hired hand, and it is burdened by an inherent conflict of interest. The report has not been reviewed by objective agencies of expertise, and it has not been approved by FERC.

I, and a large number of citizens, sent a letter to the Virginia Departments of Health and Environmental Quality, in which we asked them to review the report for reliability. Unfortunately we have received no response since sending the letter nearly three weeks ago. This continues a dismal lack of response to citizen concerns regarding the ACP and MVP from most Virginia state agencies, and that is truly shameful.

Fortunately, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has indicated a willingness to review the report. This agency previously advised there was insufficient data for them to fully understand possible health and environmental impacts from the large ACP pipe stockpiles.

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has also expressed an interest in reviewing the report. They were critical of Dominion's initial Tox Strategies coating report from last summer, and that eventually contributed to FERC being compelled to request another report, albeit a year later.

I am not trained in coating issues, but my initial review of the report finds questionable methodology and conclusions, even to my untrained eye. I'll take a closer look and consult with experts, if possible.

I plan to advise FERC on my findings, and press them to publicly comment on the health and environmental threats from this coating. FERC is responsible for approving these pipeline projects, and complying with the National Environmental Policy Act in doing so. FERC has remained entrenched on this issue for far too long

We can all breathe a sigh of relief that we beat the ACP in a truly historic victory. But our fellow citizens near the ACP pipe stockpiles, along the MVP, and throughout our country need a valid and reliable assessment of the possible threats from this type of pipe coating. We still don't have it.

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