

# The Recorder

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## Death of 600-mile pipeline leaves ‘zombie easements’

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Editor, The Recorder,

More than seven months after the Atlantic Coast Pipeline was canceled, over 1,000 landowners along the ACP’s 600-mile path continue to be plagued by “zombie easements” — legal agreements which live on long after the project for which they were obtained was killed.

The 50-foot-wide about permanent easements severely restrict what the property owners can do with their land, and the 75-foot-wide temporary easements now lack a clear end-date as well. Both impair landowners’ ability to sell their land, and burden their peace of mind since the company could transfer the easements to another company at any time.

Dominion spokespersons have stated the company does not intend to voluntarily release the easements and has not ruled out transferring the easements to another party, saying only it “has no plans to do so at this time.”

Dominion’s stance places a severe, continuing and unwarranted burden on properties with zombie easements.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must act to solve these problems because it awarded the essential certificate of “public convenience and necessity” that opened the door to Atlantic’s use of eminent domain. Property owners on the pipeline’s path faced a no-win situation; besieged by powerful corporations with huge financial and legal resources, most landowners chose to grant easements because they knew that, in the end, the court would condemn their land anyway.

In a recent letter to FERC, Friends of Nelson detailed the problems caused by zombie easements and asked the agency to order Dominion (a.k.a., ACP, LLC) to contact all affected landowners about specific steps they will take to resolve the zombie easements problem.

The full Friends of Nelson letter can be found at [friendsofnelson.com](https://www.friendsofnelson.com).

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