



Policy on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline **June 29, 2015**

The members of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance listed below oppose all of the routes announced by Dominion Resources and its partners as under consideration for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) because they are not in the best interest of the public good for the affected communities and citizens of Virginia and West Virginia.

Specifically, the construction of a pipeline along these proposed routes would:

- Threaten the integrity and safety of the water supplies of the immediately affected communities and many other communities that are dependent upon water originating in the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region;
- Present serious safety risks because of the proven instability of the karst topography which these proposed routes would traverse;
- Endanger the structural character and seriously increase the possibility of long-term erosion in the steep mountain terrain through which the routes would pass;
- Harm the habitat of many protected species of plants and animals that are unique to the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region;
- Compromise the intended uses of public lands, particularly the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests, the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail;
- Degrade the usefulness of affected agriculture and forest resources;
- Lower the value of private property of land owners along the routes;
- Diminish the cultural and recreational attractions of the affected communities and the region as a whole; and
- Disrupt and adversely impact the economies and livelihoods of the people and communities affected by the proposed routes.

We urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to consider all of the foregoing concerns as it evaluates the application of the ACP.

Finally, we strongly believe that FERC must:

- Conduct a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that assesses the full range of adverse effects of the pipeline and evaluates all reasonable, less damaging alternatives. The PEIS should examine the need for and impacts of the pipeline in the context of the numerous natural gas infrastructure projects proposed for the region and the rapidly increasing competitiveness of clean, renewable sources of energy.
- Investigate the demand for more natural gas in the markets that the ACP would reportedly serve and the need for a new pipeline to meet that demand, given that recent credible studies have concluded that the existing pipeline infrastructure may be adequate; and
- Evaluate the expected life of the Marcellus shale field since recent analyses have predicted that production from the field will soon begin to decline.

Allegheny Highlands Alliance
All Pain No Gain
Appalachian Mountain Advocates
Appalachian Voices
Augusta County Alliance
Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Climate Action Alliance of the Valley
Conservation Partners
Cooper Conservation Advisors, LLC
Cowpasture River Preservation Association
Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition
Eight Rivers Council
Free Nelson
Friends of Augusta
Friends of Buckingham County, VA
Friends of Nelson County
Friends of Shenandoah Mountain
Friends of Middle River
Greenbrier River Watershed Association
Highland County Cave Survey
Highlanders for Responsible Development
Jackson River Preservation Association
Pipeline Education Group
Rockbridge Area Conservation Council
Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation
Shenandoah Valley Network
Shenandoah Valley Group - Sierra Club - Virginia Chapter
Sierra Club-Virginia Chapter
Southern Environmental Law Center
Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club
Valley Conservation Council
Virginia Native Plant Society
Virginia Wilderness Committee
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
West Virginia Environmental Council
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
Whitescarver Natural Resources Management
Wild Virginia
Yogaville Environmental Solutions