



ABRA Update #328 – March 10, 2022

Issue Highlights . . .

- Decisions on ACP restoration plan expected soon
- *In the News* – page 2

Decisions on ACP restoration plan expected soon

The long-anticipated decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the route restoration of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is expected be forthcoming this month. FERC announced in November that a final decision on a restoration plan for the project would be made by March 17, 2022.

Following the July 5, 2020 announcement of the cancellation of the ACP, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACP, LLC) filed with FERC on January 4, 2021 a proposed plan for restoration of the ACP route. A restoration plan for the Supply Header Project (a related 37-mile pipeline project that would have connected the ACP to other pipelines in northern West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania) was filed with FERC on November 20, 2020. At the time of the ACP cancellation, there was approximately 31.4 miles of installed pipe in place and 108.4 miles of felled trees along the 600-mile route of the project.

A final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed restoration plan was released on December 17, 2021 (click [here](#) for a copy of the SEIS, which includes a 4-page Executive Summary of the 901-page document).

ABRA was in contact this week with FERC staff overseeing the ACP restoration plan. Regarding the decision-making process for the plan, we were told:

- The ACP Restoration Plan will require Commission action—whether to approve it; not approve it; or approve it with conditions
- The Commission’s next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, March 24. One-week prior to that, March 17, a “Sunshine Notice” will be published that discloses the projects for which the Commission intends to issue Orders during its meeting.
- FERC staff and the Commissioners are aware of the request that ABRA and its members made in comments to the agency to require ACP, LLC to relinquish easements it obtained for the ACP as a condition of approval of the restoration plan. Whatever the Commission’s final position on the easement issue turns out to be, it would be conveyed in the Order.

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In the News:

Regional Issues

Bill stripping citizen air and water boards of permitting power headed to governor

- Virginia Mercury – 2/28/22

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/blog-va/bill-stripping-citizen-air-and-water-boards-of-permitting-power-headed-to-governor/>

Mountain Valley Pipeline lead investor urges patience

- Chatham Star Tribune – 3/3/22

https://www.chathamstartribune.com/news/local/article_e943b320-9a35-11ec-bcdd-af054f249695.html

Related:

- https://www.bdtonline.com/news/manchin-moves-to-help-speed-up-finish-of-natural-gas-pipeline/article_02a2fb48-9a84-11ec-a7b7-8f53ee67fcee.html

Limpert: Mountain Valley Pipeline will be a health hazard

- The Roanoke Times – 3/9/22

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mountain-Valley-Pipeline-will-be-a-health-hazard-Roanoke-Times-3-9-22.pdf>

If completed, MVP would leak or release over 7 million cubic feet of methane and other toxic gases and chemicals daily...for 40-50 years...assuming a conservative, industry-supplied rate (0.35%/day). At 50 years, that's over 125 *billion* cubic feet, or like letting the pipeline pump directly into the atmosphere, flat-out, for two months. And that's a *conservative* estimate!

Buffalo Creek — 50 years later

- WV Metro News – 2/25/22

<https://wvmetronews.com/2022/02/25/buffalo-creek-50-years-later/>

Nobody is sure just how many coal slurry and tailings impoundments still lurk up in the hollows of West Virginia. Nor do we have any idea of the safety of those that exist, or the potential threat to lives and property downstream. West Virginia is expected to receive more and more intense rainfall as the climate changes. This issue should be examined.

Do opponents of Botetourt County wind farm live too far away to sue?

- The Roanoke Times – 3/6/22

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Do-opponents-of-Botetourt-County-wind-farm-live-too-far-away-to-sue-Roanoke-Times-3-6-22.pdf>

Tilting toward windmills

- Virginia Business – 2/27/22

<https://www.virginiabusiness.com/article/tilting-toward-windmills/>

Hampton Roads business leaders excited about offshore wind developments at the Port of Virginia.

Big Picture:

EU Aims to Cut Russia Gas Dependence by Almost 80% This Year

- Bloomberg – 3/7/22

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-03-07/eu-aims-to-cut-dependence-on-russian-gas-by-almost-80-this-year>

The plan, to be presented Tuesday, will propose steps such as tapping new gas supplies and increasing energy efficiency already this year, one of the officials said, and aims to deliver independence from the region's biggest supplier of the fossil fuel well before 2030 -- sooner than previous projections.

As War Rages, A Struggle to Balance Energy Crunch and Climate Crisis

- The New York Times – 3/10/22

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/10/climate/climate-oil-crisis-global.html>

Related:

- <https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Russia-crisis-may-drive-a-U.S.-natural-gas-surge-EE-News-3-9-22.pdf>

How Climate Change Is Disrupting the Global Supply Chain

- Yale Environment 360 – 3/10/22

<https://e360.yale.edu/features/how-climate-change-is-disrupting-the-global-supply-chain>

The impact of the Covid pandemic on the global supply chain has been widely reported. But extreme weather, from floods to wildfires, is increasingly hammering ports, highways, and factories worldwide, and experts warn these climate-induced disruptions will only get worse.

Ukraine's Conflict Has Rippled All the Way to the Arctic Circle

- Time – 3/9/22

<https://time.com/6156189/russia-ukraine-conflict-risks-arctic-climate/>

An international team to study the carbon resources of Arctic permafrost has been completely derailed by the war in Ukraine. Russia holds over half of the world's Arctic landmass...and over half of the 1.5 trillion tons of carbon equivalent trapped there.

Americans Largely Favor U.S. Taking Steps To Become Carbon Neutral by 2050

- Pew Research Center – 3/1/22

<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/03/01/americans-largely-favor-u-s-taking-steps-to-become-carbon-neutral-by-2050/>

But just 31% want to phase out use of fossil fuels completely. Those that do don't seem to understand what it will actually take to achieve.

US Finally Stitches Renewable Energy 'Seams' Together

- CleanTechnica – 3/7/22

<https://cleantechnica.com/2022/03/07/us-finally-stitches-renewable-energy-seams-together/>

The US renewable energy profile is about to bust wide open as two key transmission stakeholders find a way to work together.