



ABRA Update #81 – May 26, 2016

Strong Turnout for Scoping Hearings; Filed Comments Deadline Is June 2

Last weekend's scoping hearings had a large turnout of speakers. Nearly 80 testified on Friday in Marlinton, VA and over 100 did so in Hot Springs, VA on Saturday. For those who did testify, ABRA would appreciate receiving a copy of your remarks. Send them to lewfreeman@gmail.com.

For those who were not able to testify, or who have supplemental comments to make, you are urged to file your written comments with FERC, ideally by the scoping comment deadline on June 2. Your communications should reference Docket No. CP15-554 and be addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Electronic filing of comments can be done at <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/quickcomment.aspx>.

ABRA requested on May 5 that FERC extend the scoping period, and followed up that request with a further inquiry on May 24. This is the response received from Kevin Bowman of FERC on May 24:

*As a matter of practice, FERC rarely extends scoping periods except for instances where unusual events occur. As was the case for previous formal scoping periods, any party that may be scrambling to submit comments by the current requested date may submit comments after the deadline and they will still be accepted. If someone is concerned about whether they will truly be accepted, please note that FERC has had **several "formal" scoping periods throughout review of this particular project** – with periods in between when there was not an official comment period in place. We received many comments during those times as well, and all of those have been accepted and are being considered by the FERC.*

So, don't plan on an extension, try to get your comments in by June 2, but file them even if it's past the deadline. The agency needs to hear from you.

Augusta Supervisors Oppose Proposed ACP Route

The Augusta County, VA Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on May 25 to oppose the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through the county. The action follows a similar expression of opposition on May from the Bath County, VA Board of Supervisors. The Augusta County Alliance, an ABRA member, reported the action on its Facebook page:

The Supervisors voted 7-0 tonight at their regular meeting to send a letter to Dominion telling them that their chosen route through Augusta County does not comply with Virginia law 56-49.01 (that allows natural gas companies to survey property without landowners'

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – Lew Freeman, lewfreeman@gmail.com

In the News – Dan Shaffer, dshaffer@abralliance.org

permission) because it is NOT the "most advantageous route." The supervisors listed a number of reasons why the route, which traverses 56 miles through Augusta County, could not possibly be the most advantageous route including the fact that it goes NORTH and then SOUTH in order to go EAST Because Dominion has not complied with the state code and created the "most advantageous route," the company therefore should not be allowed to survey for its proposed pipeline in Augusta County. The supervisors will send the letter to Dominion and copy it to all elected officials on the state and federal level. Go Supervisors.

ABRA has compiled a complete listing of expressions of opposition and concerns from local governments and public officials in Virginia and West Virginia. The [list](#) is on our website.

VA DEQ Sets Forth Additional Conditions for ACP and MVP

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has sent Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI), managing partner for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a list of additional conditions regarding erosion and sediment control and stormwater management. DEQ set forth in a [May 16 letter](#) the following requirements:

1. An individual project-specific plan is required to be submitted for DEQ review and approval;
2. **The plan, DEQ approval and supporting documents must be posted on DTI's website;**
3. Inspection reports conducted by DTI, as well as complaint logs and responses, must be submitted to DEQ; and
4. DTI is required to pay DEQ to cover the costs incurred from hiring additional technical expertise to assist the agency in plan review and compliance.

Rick Webb of Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition observes about the letter:

"It's not yet clear that DEQ will apply the same stormwater management requirements that apply to other earth disturbing projects. This could have profound implications for receiving streams and karst groundwater systems.

"It's also critical to recognize that standard best management practices (BMPs) will not be protective in the extreme conditions that these projects will face. The performance limits of available control technology will be compounded if, in the interest of expediting these projects, DEQ grants variances to minimum standards such the open trench length limits. **Required BMPs will not (cannot) be installed if that is the case."**

For more, see the *Recorder* story below, "DEQ, Corp under pressure from pipeline opponents."

It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's . . . NO PIPELINE!



The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition's "Pipeline Airforce" made an appearance over the May 22 Riverrock Concert in Richmond that Dominion sponsored on Saturday, May 22.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Residents tell FERC reps about pipeline worries

- The Recorder – 5/26/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Residents_tell_FERC_reps_about_pipeline_worries-Recorder_5-26-16.pdf

DEQ, Corps under pressure from pipeline opponents

- The Recorder – 5/26//16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/DEQCOE_-RECORDER_20160526.pdf
Lots of great info and explanation of what's been happening around the issue of water

Justifiable Jitters or Unwarranted Worry?

- Bacon's Rebellion – 5/26/16

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2016/05/justifiable-jitters-or-unwarranted-worry.html#more-34850>
Pipeline failures at any location are rare but devastating when they do happen...Dominion says it's taking every precaution

Dominion contractors don't comfort

- News Leader – 5/21/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2016/05/21/dominion-contractors-comfort/84734402/>

Dominion's construction jobs manned by contractors from other regions who have never heard of karst, routinely violate environmental regulations and leave piles of filth in their wake. Thanks, Big D!

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

State DEQ tells pipelines to expect project specific environmental standards

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 5/24/16

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/article_60251edf-f7ca-5fe6-8adb-fa61a7f566b4.html

DEQ letter to pipeline developers a good first step...but still just a first step

Related:

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/deq-letter-to-pipeline-companies-a-significant-first-step-say/article_789f0fc8-e03a-5270-b2e7-a641b5b9d2c7.html

FERC Called "Biased Against Local Concerns"

- Public News Service – 5/23/16

<http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2016-05-23/energy-policy/ferc-called-biased-against-local-concerns/a52073-1>

Concerns of individual **citizens not part of FERC's "legal DNA"**

Big Picture:

Kinder Morgan formally withdraws federal application for Northeast Energy Direct pipeline

- MassLive – 5/23/16

http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/05/kinder_morgan_withdraws_federa.html

Feds take steps to block anti-fracking activists

- Washington Examiner – 5/18/16

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/feds-take-steps-to-block-anti-fracking-activists/article/2591716>

Protesters and the general public shut out of **FERC meeting for past and planned disruption...**were allowed to view on web

Debate Rages on Pipelines in Northeastern States

- Bloomberg BNA – 5/18/16

<http://www.bna.com/debate-rages-pipelines-n57982072647/>

KM and Constitution decisions may affect the long term energy outlook for New England states

Experts Urge Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) To Suspend Review Of Incomplete PennEast Pipeline Application

- PRNewsWire – 5/26/16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/experts-urge-federal-energy-regulatory-commission-ferc-to-suspend-review-of-incomplete-penneast-pipeline-application-300275586.html>

PennEast's failure to complete required surveys and other application materials sounds familiar

Exposed: Spectra-Funded Group Lobbied for FERC Commissioner's **Reappointment, Then FERC Approved Spectra's Gas Pipelines**

- DESMOG – 5/20/16

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2016/05/20/exposed-spectra-energy-funded-nec-lobbied-ferc-commissioner-lafleur-s-reappointment-then-ferc-approved-spectra-s-gas>

Indications of possible impropriety and conflicts of interest for FERC administrator

Neighbors Unite to Halt Construction on Spectra Energy's AIM Pipeline

- Common Dreams – 5/21/16

<http://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2016/05/21/neighbors-unite-halt-construction-spectra-energys-aim-pipeline>

Citizens accept arrest as cost of making their voices heard on AIM pipeline

370 Groups Oppose Federal Energy Bill That Would Increase Fracking, Harm Climate

- Center for Biological Diversity – 5/24/16

http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2016/fracking-05-24-2016.html

Related:

<https://summitcountyvoice.com/2016/05/24/battle-lines-drawn-over-new-fossil-fuel-infrastructure/>

Greek Pipeline Breakthrough To Challenge Russian Gas Dominance

- OilPrice.com – 5/18/16

<http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/Greek-Pipeline-Breakthrough-To-Challenge-Russian-Gas-Dominance.html>

Trans-Adriatic Pipeline will open Europe to ~1bcf/day of non-Russian gas...and dims the prospect of US LNG profits even further