



ABRA Update #66 – February 10, 2016

Washington Post Features ACP Article, ABRA Responds

A Sunday, February 7 *Washington Post* feature article on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) profiles the negative impacts the project would have on many businesses and families along the proposed route. “A Dilemma of Development vs. the Prospect of Losing Peace and Quiet” (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/a-dilemma-of-development-vs-the-prospect-of-losing-peace-and-quiet/2016/02/06/dab301b8-c9b6-11e5-88ff-e2d1b4289c2f_story.html?tid=a_inl) includes interviews with several people active in ABRA member groups in the Shenandoah Valley, as well as quotes from a Dominion Resources spokesman.

ABRA responded to the article with a Letter to the Editor that appears in the February 11 edition of the *Post* (available at https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/pipeline-would-result-in-economic-and-ecological-harm-to-virginia/2016/02/10/dae8ec0c-ce7e-11e5-90d3-34c2c42653ac_story.html). A Dominion vice president also has a response printed.

The ABRA letter said that the article “understated the ecological devastation and economic harm that would result” from the project. Citing specific examples of how the pipeline would harm the environment and raising questions over the economic viability of the ACP, the ABRA letter concludes: “If new pipelines are built, they should be safe and needed. The Atlantic Coast pipeline, as proposed, doesn’t meet either test.”

Clean Power Plan on Hold

The U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday evening (2/9/16) ordered that steps to implement President’s Clean Power Plan (CPP) be put on hold. In a 5-4 decision (Justices Kagan, Sotomayor, Breyer and Ginsberg dissenting), the Court granted a stay for five cases pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that challenge The Environmental Protection Agency’s “Carbon Pollution Emission Guidelines for Existing Stationary Sources: Electric Utility Generating Units” (80 Fed. Reg. 64,662, October 23, 2015). The effect of the Court’s order will delay implementation of the CPP, including all deadlines. It is believed the decision could stall the plan until after the President’s term ends in January 2017. Compliance with the CPP has been cited as one of the rationales for building the ACP and the Mountain Valley Pipeline since some of the affected power plants seek to convert from coal to natural gas. More on the decision at <http://www.scotusblog.com/2016/02/carbon-pollution-controls-put-on-hold/>.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Support Given To Gov. McAuliffe For Pipeline Stance

- News Leader – 2/9/16

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2016/02/09/acp-mcauliffe-pipeline/80062452/>
EnergySure Coalition thanks the Gov for his support

Senators Hope To Compel FERC To Broaden Analysis Of Pipeline Projects

- Roanoke Times – 2/4/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/senators-hope-to-compel-ferc-to-broaden-analysis-of-pipeline/article_be98502f-5491-5b5e-b5be-bcd14768c5e4.html

Wintergreen Says Pipeline Threatens Its Revitalization

- The Daily Progress – 2/7/16

http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/wintergreen-says-pipeline-threatens-resort-s-revitalization/article_456b349e-cdf9-11e5-a86e-a313dbd3eae8.html

Seems to be no serious search for alternatives

Photography Class Photos Helped Efforts To Block Atlantic Coast Pipeline On Sensitive Sections Of National Forestland

- Eastern Mennonite University News – 2/4/16

<http://emu.edu/now/news/2016/02/photography-class-photos-helped-efforts-to-block-atlantic-coast-pipeline-on-sensitive-sections-of-national-forestland/>

Pictures are indeed worth a thousand words!

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Bill To Repeal Pipeline Surveying Law Killed In Senate Committee

- Roanoke Times – 2/8/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/general_assembly/bill-to-repeal-pipeline-surveying-law-killed-in-senate-committee/article_13697628-2bb5-5987-9d5e-45041d6acfe8.html

“right of entry protects the landowner, protects the commonwealth”, says Dominion spokesperson

Pipeline Erosion Control Bill Swept Away In Committee

- Roanoke Times – 2/4/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/general_assembly/pipeline-erosion-control-bill-swept-away-in-committee/article_93dd3998-3554-56b1-b9a3-fee17ea6074c.html

Bill to allow more local oversight of local impacts deemed “too complicated” for pipeline projects

Groups In Virginia, West Virginia Intervene In Third Fracked-Gas Project

- Augusta Free Press – 2/4/16

<http://augustafreepress.com/groups-in-virginia-west-virginia-intervene-in-third-fracked-gas-project/>

Citizens’ groups looking to thwart gas companies fracked gas ambitions, global export dreams...and protect property and environmental heritage

Big Picture:

Why Natural Gas Investments Could Spell Trouble For Electric Utilities

- Utility Dive – 2/8/16

<http://www.utilitydive.com/news/why-natural-gas-investments-could-spell-trouble-for-electric-utilities/413368/>

In a bid for the appearance of revenue growth, utilities locking in for a 50-year ride with gas...it may be a bad idea

Markey: Canadian Natural Gas Export OK Confirms Plans For Area Pipeline

- The Recorder – 2/8/16

<http://goinggreen.recorder.com/2016/02/08/markey-canadian-natural-gas-export-ok-confirms-plans-for-area-pipeline/>

Says pipeline companies should be forthcoming about the true destination of the gas slated to flow through them

FRACKED GAS HIGHWAYS: Pipelines Feed Demand, Rattle Neighbors

- Press & Sun Bulletin – 2/5/16

<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/2016/02/05/fracking-natural-gas-pipeline-growth-feeds-demand-rattles-neighbors/79137962/>

Discusses life amongst NatGas infrastructure, ongoing battles over pipelines, compressor stations in upstate NY

Legislators Seeking Federal Regulation Of Natural Gas Storage

- Los Angeles Daily News – 2/7/16

<http://www.dailynews.com/government-and-politics/20160207/legislators-seeking-federal-regulation-of-natural-gas-storage>

Porter Ranch leak is emblematic of widespread problems...and these pose significant hazards

Activists Decry Fed Ruling On Elba Plant

- Savannah Morning News – 2/5/16

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2016-02-05/activists-decry-fed-ruling-elba-plant#>

Dominion purchased a pipeline system in 2015 that can access Elba Island...and is not far from ACP terminus

US FERC Approves 685 Miles Of Gas Pipelines To Southeast Markets

- Platts – 2/3/16

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/natural-gas/washington/us-ferc-approves-685-miles-of-gas-pipelines-to-21878599>

Sabal Trail and Florida Southeast are now a “Go”