



ABRA Update #80 – May 18, 2016

Scoping Hearings Need Your Participation

The Friday and Saturday scoping meetings to be conducted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in, respectively, Marlinton, WV (May 20) and Hot Springs, VA (May 21) provide an important opportunity for citizens concerned about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to make their views known. It also offers an opportunity to confer with and ask questions of staff who will be present from FERC and the U.S. Forest Service. More on the meetings, including tips on preparing and delivering your comments, are [here](#).

New Electric Generating Capacity Added in 2016 Is Essentially Renewables

A recently-released [report](#) from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission shows that 98.6% of the new electric generation capacity added in the U.S. in the first three months of 2016 have been renewable projects. The remaining 1.4% was natural gas-based generation.

Over the past 3 years (2013-15), comparable figures have been:

New electrical generation capacity, new build and expansion (by %)

Fuel	Jan-Mar 2016	2015	2014	2013
Natural Gas	1.4%	34%	47%	46%
Coal	*	*	*	10
Renewables	98.6	65	50	43

*negligible or none Source: office of Energy Projects, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

A noteworthy observation: as the percentage of new natural gas generating capacity falls, the natural gas industry seeks to expand its long-term delivery infrastructure. Counterintuitive, perhaps? A further discussion of the report is [here](#).

New Study on MVP Confirms More Economic Harm Than Benefits

A just-released study by Key-Log Economics on the economic impact of the Mountain Valley Pipeline concludes that “the total estimated cost of the MVP in eight counties studied in Virginia and West Virginia is between \$8.0 and 8.9 billion.” The [study](#) was commissioned by the POWHR coalition of community groups from an eight-county region in West Virginia (Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers) and Virginia (Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery and Roanoke). The study estimates that one-time costs of constructing the pipeline would range from between \$65.1 and \$135.5 million due to lost property values and lost ecosystem services. Key-Log conducted a similar study on the impacts of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Augusta, Buckingham, Highland and Nelson Counties in Virginia. That [study on ACP impacts](#) is available on the ABRA website.

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – Lew Freeman, lewfreeman@gmail.com

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

ABRA Membership Reaches 50

[Bioquest Solutions](#) has become ABRA's 50th member. The firm provides multiple environmental services to private and public clients.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline safety zones paint wide swath

- The Recorder – 5/19/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Pipeline_safety_zones_paint_wide_swath-Recorder_5-19-16.pdf

DPMC Environmental Mapping System now includes ACP Blast and Evacuation Zones

Bath County BOS approves letter opposing proposed pipeline

- Augusta Free Press – 5/17/16

<http://augustafreepress.com/bath-county-bos-approves-letter-opposing-proposed-pipeline/>

Wintergreen Proposes Alternative Routes For Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Press Release – 5/16/16

http://www.einnews.com/pr_news/325743893/wintergreen-proposes-alternative-routes-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline

FOW touts alternatives as “constructible” but do not address the fact that they only move the related problems away from Wintergreen...SOMEBODY must live with those if the ACP is built

Officials vow VA will protect watershed if pipeline goes ahead

- Bay Journal – 5/16/16

http://www.bayjournal.com/article/officials_vow_va_will_protect_watershed_if_pipeline_goes_ahead

But state has utterly failed to do so in the past

Debate over overbuilding raises questions about pipeline projects

- Roanoke Times – 5/15/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/debate-over-overbuilding-raises-questions-about-pipeline-projects/article_8f5c9cec-447f-521e-b580-c9869e746723.html

Nice recap or primer on the subject of overbuild in the context of ACP and MVP

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Study backed by Mountain Valley Pipeline opponents suggests negative economic impacts for region

- Roanoke Times – 5/18/16

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/study-backed-by-mountain-valley-pipeline-opponents-suggests-negative-economic/article_9994f63a-ecb8-59e5-94a5-c2c8fa4aa684.html

Economic study seeks to quantify the costs borne by local communities from pipeline construction

Public Comment Period on Mountain Valley Pipeline 401 Water Quality Certification Extended

- WV Department of Environmental Protection – 5/16/16

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/news/pages/public-comment-period-on-mountain-valley-pipeline-401-water-quality-certification-extended.aspx>

“...until further notice.” But it would be advisable to submit comments sooner rather than wait

From the Mountains to the Sea: McAuliffe is hurting people with his energy policies

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 5/16/16

http://www.richmond.com/opinion/their-opinion/guest-columnists/article_1bbd2d5f-7046-5d74-8d9f-d5f247b0a16d.html

McAuliffe still has time to save his legacy...and do right by the citizens of Virginia

Marcellus-to-Southeast Takeaway Projects Hitting More Snags in WV, VA

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 5/17/16

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/M2SE_hitting_Snags_20160517.pdf

ACP and MVP continue to receive pushback...partial article with link

Big Picture:

Feds Tighten First-Ever Methane Rules for Fracking, Pipelines

- US News & World Report – 5/12/16

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2016-05-12/feds-finalize-first-ever-methane-rules-targeting-leaks-from-fracking-pipelines>

Rules aim to reduce methane leaks from new facilities...rules for existing facilities forthcoming

Related:

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/106403-epa-releases-final-rule-for-oil-gas-methane-emissions>

Muio, Gusciora and Benson Seeking Tougher Federal Approval Process on Natural Gas Pipelines Advances

- MercerMe – 5/16/16

<http://mercerme.com/muio-gusciora-and-benson-seeking-tougher-federal-approval-process-on-natural-gas-pipelines-advances/>

NJ out front in calling for federal action on natural gas pipeline siting process

Constitution pipeline appeals regulator's water permit rejection

- Reuters – 5/16/16

<http://www.reuters.com/article/usa-naturalgas-constitution-pipeline-idUSL2N18E006>

Claims NY politics to blame for Clean Water Act permit denial

AG wants feds to probe Constitution Pipeline

- Press & Sun Bulletin – 5/13/16

<http://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/local/new-york/2016/05/13/ag-wants-fed-probe-constitution-pipeline/84346936/>

Constitution accused of undertaking construction activities in NY without proper permits...which were ultimately denied

Related:

<http://www.pennenergy.com/articles/ogj/2016/05/new-york-attorney-general-asks-ferc-to-review-pipeline-authorization.html>

Six Threats For The U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas Business

- Forbes – 5/15/16

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/judeclemente/2016/05/15/six-threats-for-the-u-s-liquefied-natural-gas-business/#6d8ad144799c>

Significant headwinds exist for US LNG exports, and yet investors just cannot seem to stop throwing money at LNG export facilities

After Denying it, Federal Energy Regulators Will Rehear LNG Pipeline Case in Oregon

- Post Independent | Citizen Telegram – 5/12/16

<http://www.postindependent.com/news/rifle/21970990-113/regulators-re-open-door-for-natural-gas-projects>

Lawyers, courts look ahead to pipeline opposition action

- The Recorder – 5/13/16

<http://www.recorder.com/Lawyers-courts-look-ahead-to-pipeline-opposition-action-2107273>

NE region's legal system preparing for civil disobedience actions on a massive scale