



ABRA Update #96 – September 8, 2016

Pipeline Summit Set for November 12 at Natural Bridge Hotel

The second Pipeline Summit, co-sponsored by the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance and the POWHR coalition (Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights) will be held on Saturday, November 12 at the Natural Bridge Hotel, located just off of I-81, 20 minutes south of Lexington, VA. The first Pipeline Summit, held in April in Weyer's Cave, VA, was attended by 120 people. The November 12 event is expected to draw a larger crowd, which will include representatives from groups in North Carolina who are in opposition to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The [Natural Bridge Hotel](#) is one of Virginia's and the nation's most historic hotels. It sits on a site where Thomas Jefferson built a cabin with a guest room and is located 500 yards from the famed Natural Bridge, a National Historic Landmark.

Some of the topics that will be addressed at the Summit include:

- Latest developments and outlooks for the ACP & MVP;
- Impact of the November 8 election results;
- Recent studies on karst, water monitoring and soil erosion;
- Economic studies on the need for new pipelines;
- Legal strategies; and
- Strengthening our efforts.



The Summit will begin at 10 am on November 12 and conclude by 3:30 pm. There will be plenary and breakout sessions. A \$10 fee will be charged for lunch and beverages. A small block of rooms has been set aside for those needing overnight accommodations, at \$79/ per night.

The Summit agenda is being developed by a joint ABRA-POWHR planning committee. Program and registration information will be sent soon. For now, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

For questions about Update items, contact:

Articles – *Lew Freeman*, lewfreeman@gmail.com

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

VOF Voices Opposition to the ACP Route Proposal

The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to not approve the latest proposed route change proposed in Nelson County, VA for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). In a [September 6 letter to FERC](#), Martha Little, VOF Deputy Director, said:

The GWNF-6 route change to avoid U.S. Forest Service lands resulted in significant potential impacts to VOF open-space lands. If this additional route change (Spruce Creek Route Variation) is adopted, a total of 11 open-space easements in Highland, Bath and Augusta and Nelson Counties would suffer permanent impairment of conservation values. These properties include areas of high ecological integrity, high priority conservation area forests, critical karst resources, scenic protected areas, pristine trout streams and important historic resources.

As FERC is specifically responsible for preventing and minimizing environmental impacts from natural gas projects, we urge you to reject the Spruce Creek Route alternative as a viable option and not include it in the DRAFT EIS. We would also implore you to reconsider the primary route that will cross 10 other VOF open-space easements.

New Story Map Available on National Forests and the ACP

“[The ACP and Our National Forests](#)” is the newest in the series of story maps developed and available on the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition website. It discusses through text and maps the existing corridors that exist to accommodate other utility projects and illustrates the significant impact the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would have on the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests, as well as upon the Appalachian Trail.

[Other story maps](#) are available discussing access roads, forest fragmentation, shale barrens and the impact of the ACP on environmental easements held by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Additional story maps are in the works and will be announced in the near future.

Forest Service Comments Further on ACP Impacts

Impacts of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) on National Forest Service lands were the subject of further comment in two filings by the U.S. Forest Service published September 7. The first filing [comments on an interim botanical survey report](#) filed by Dominion Transmission, Inc. for the Monongahela and George Washington (GWNF) National Forests in July. The [other filing](#) addresses an August survey report on locally rare species in the GWNF.

Dominion Submits Updated WV Water Quality Application for ACP

An [updated application for a water quality permit](#) from the State of West Virginia for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, as required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, was been filed August 26 by Dominion Transmission, Inc. with the WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP). The re-filing is in response to the WVDEP declaring an earlier application, filed last September, to be incomplete.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

This Deal Stinks

- The Recorder – 9/8/16
http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/This_deal_stinks-Recorder_9-8-16.pdf
Dominion's attempt to push forward with the VOF/Hayfields issue not sitting well with many

Anti-pipeline activists hold demonstration at Dominion Energy

- WHSV 3 News – 9/7/16
<http://www.wHSV.com/content/news/Anti-pipeline-activists-hold-demonstration-at-Dominion-Energy-392660161.html>
Activists plan to meet again at Dominion's Staunton offices to protest the pipeline every Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. through September

Opinion/Letter: McAuliffe too soft on pipeline plan

- The Daily Progress – 9/5/16
http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-letter-mcauliffe-too-soft-on-pipeline-plan/article_6c59594e-7369-11e6-8f29-cb7842e869fd.html

Forest Service wants re-evaluation of pipeline stream crossings

- The Daily Progress – 9/2/16
http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/state/forest-service-wants-re-evaluation-of-pipeline-stream-crossings/article_8017a15a-7168-11e6-8b6e-ob4cbeeb086c.html
Concerns over stream crossings, macroinvertebrates and soil surveys still dogging Dominion

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Natural gas-fueled power plant proposed for Chesapeake site a quarter-mile from Dominion's controversial coal-fired plant

- The Virginian-Pilot – 9/7/16
http://pilotonline.com/news/local/environment/natural-gas-plant-proposed-along-elizabeth-river-in-chesapeake/article_78ac55a2-a9f5-517e-a4b6-4245aa6fecef.html
Proposed plant would potentially take gas from the ACP spur to Hampton Roads...its necessity is debatable

Dominion locks out 250 Pennsylvania transmission pipeline workers

- Power Source – 9/7/16
<http://powersource.post-gazette.com/powersource/companies/2016/09/07/Dominion-locks-out-250-Pennsylvania-transmission-pipeline-workers/stories/201609070183>

Pipeline debate wages on in West Virginia

- The Exponent Telegram – 9/2/16
http://www.theet.com/pipeline-debate-wages-on-in-west-virginia/article_820c8ae7-4dbf-5d18-8da5-f7f309770a82.html

Drew Shannon & Ian Ware: McAuliffe's energy policy a presidential liability

- The Virginian-Pilot – 9/4/16
http://pilotonline.com/opinion/columnist/guest/drew-shannon-ian-ware-mcauliffe-s-energy-policy-a-presidential/article_6bbfba22-8d14-567f-bf56-7244c4e58ef8.html
Keeping cozy with McAuliffe could cost Clinton and Kaine the support of younger voters

Judge directs Mountain Valley to take another stab at surveying where access has been denied

- Roanoke Times – 8/31/16

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/christiansburg/judge-directs-mountain-valley-to-take-another-stab-at-surveying/article_3511bod3-0829-50a0-8d87-0e0e3f1ed1f3.html

Big Picture:

Dakota Access Pipeline construction resumes after protest turns violent

- UPI – 9/5/16

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2016/09/04/Dakota-Access-Pipeline-construction-resumes-after-protest-turns-violent/8381473002285/?st_rec=6371473251676

Pepper spray, dogs used on angry protesters storming construction site

Related:

- http://www.democracynow.org/2016/9/4/dakota_access_pipeline_company_attacks_native

- <http://www.upi.com/Tribe-not-satisfied-with-brief-halt-to-Dakota-Access-pipeline/6371473251676/?spt=slh&or=3>

Obama on Climate Change: The Trends Are ‘Terrifying’

- The New York Times – 9/8/16

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/08/us/politics/obama-climate-change.html?_r=0

Maine’s Governor Puts His State on Fracking’s Front Lines

- The Nation – 9/6/16

<https://www.thenation.com/article/maine-governor-puts-his-state-on-frackings-frontlines/>

Enbridge plans \$28 billion takeover of Maine natural gas pipeline operator Spectra

- Portland Press Herald – 9/7/16

<http://www.pressherald.com/2016/09/07/enbridge-plans-28-billion-takeover-of-maine-natural-gas-pipeline-operator-spectra/>

Ongoing M&A in the pipeline sector further concentrates political power in the hands of a few C-Suite execs

Related:

<https://about.bgov.com/blog/pipeline-merger-spurred-activists/>

Opponents of NEXUS pipeline claim someone has been sending fake letters to federal regulators

- Fox 8 News – 9/1/16

<http://fox8.com/2016/09/01/opponents-of-nexus-pipeline-claim-someone-has-been-sending-fake-letters-to-federal-regulators/>

Perhaps some of Dominion’s 25,000 supporters aren’t real...anybody have time to check this out?

Related:

<http://www.newsnet5.com/news/local-news/oh-medina/local-residents-say-their-names-are-being-used-fraudulently-but-a-lobbying-group-claims-otherwise>

The Eastern US could get a third of its power from renewables within 10 years.

Theoretically.

- Vox – 8/31/16

<http://www.vox.com/2016/8/31/12721206/eastern-us-30-percent-renewables>

Really cool visualizations of potential power production and flows between RTOs – worth a look!

Related:

- <http://ieefa.org/largest-u-s-power-market-operator-sees-little-price-increase-epa-clean-energy-plan/>

Will Overman Band Plays “No Pipeline!” Benefit Concert for Wild Virginia

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA—Wild Virginia is working hard to keep pipelines from harming sensitive ecosystems in Virginia. To help raise funds for this effort Wild Virginia has teamed up with Will Overman Band and Starr Hill for an exciting concert.

[Will Overman Band “No Pipeline!” Benefit Concert](#)
[September 16th Starr Hill Brewery 7-9pm](#)