



ABRA Update #50 – October 14, 2015

BLM Asks FERC For More Time Due To ACP Data Tardiness

The Bureau of Land Management has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for more time to review information submitted by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. In an October 6 letter, the Acting Manager of the BLM Northeastern States District asked that “FERC adjust the schedule to reflect the late submission of data and information by Atlantic, and extend adequate time for the Federal agencies to cooperate with Atlantic in identifying and developing comparative environmental resource data for the various alternatives identified through and around the National Forests in Atlantic’s Resource Report 10. Further data regarding route alternatives and cumulative impacts of multiple regional pipeline projects is necessary before an environmental impact statement can be initiated under the compressed pre-filing process timeline.”

A copy of the BLM letter is at http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/BLM_ACP_comments-to_FERC-10-6-15.pdf.

“The Road Ahead” On October 24 – Last Chance To Register

‘The Road Ahead’ will be the theme of the Saturday, October 24 ABRA membership meeting at the Augusta County Government Center, 18 Government Center Lane, Verona, VA 24482 (Directions: <http://www.co.augusta.va.us/Index.aspx?page=27>). The meeting will commence at 10 am and conclude at 2:30 pm.

The overall objective of the meeting is to identify strategies that need to be taken by ABRA and its member organizations to successfully oppose the construction of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Implementation of such strategies will be the responsibility of the appropriate ABRA committee or work group (see article below) and be overseen by the ABRA Steering Committee.

The meeting will begin with a discussion of possible scenarios during the coming year and beyond as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission conducts an Environmental Impact Statement and otherwise considers the pending application for the project. The balance of the meeting will include breakout discussion groups that will focus on strategy development and implementation in key areas, including legal, regulatory, communications and legislative.

Each member organization may register up to 3 persons. A complete agenda will be sent to registrants next week. To register for the meeting, please email the name(s) of each registrant, their associated organization, and the email address and phone number for each person to Dan Shaffer at dshaffer@abralliance.org by Wednesday, October 21. Attendees are asked to bring their own lunch. Beverages will be provided.

ABRA Committees Created

The ABRA Steering Committee last week approved the creation of standing committees to strengthen communications and facilitate strategy development for the coalition. The committees are:

1. Legal Committee – responsible for providing legal analysis and developing legal strategies when circumstances warrant.
2. Outreach and Advocacy Committee – responsible for overseeing the development of messages and/or strategies for: 1) communications to the media and the general public; 2) advocacy initiatives directed at regulatory and legislative bodies at the local, state and federal levels; and 3) developing grass roots initiatives.
3. Regulatory Compliance Committee – responsible for monitoring all aspects of the development and (should it occur) construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and developing appropriate response strategies. A Technical Analysis Work Group will function within this committee to review and analyze relevant documents when the need arises. The Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition will serve as the Regulatory Compliance Committee.
4. Finance Committee – oversees the finances of ABRA, including securing funding sources.

Members of the committees will be appointed by the ABRA Chair in consultation with the Steering Committee. Committee chairs and initial members will be announced soon. Additional committees or work groups will be created as necessary.

Reminder: October 23 Deadline For Seeking Intervenor Status

Those individuals and organizations interested in seeking intervenor status with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline proceeding must submit their application to the agency by 5 pm, Friday, October 23. Details for how to proceed are at: <http://ferc.gov/resources/guides/how-to/intervene.asp>.

To assist parties who are considering becoming intervenors, FERC provides the following advice in its Citizens Guide (<http://www.ferc.gov/resources/guides/citz-guide-gas.pdf>):

“Becoming an intervenor is not complicated and gives you official rights. As an intervenor, you will receive the applicant’s filings and other Commission documents related to the case and materials filed by other interested parties. You will also be able to file briefs, appear at hearings and be heard by the courts if you choose to appeal the Commission’s final ruling. However, along with these rights come responsibilities. As an intervenor, you will be obligated to mail copies of what you file with the Commission to all the other parties at the time of filing. In major cases, there may be hundreds of parties.”

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Salamander found nowhere else in the world lies in path of proposed pipeline

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 10/12/15

[HTTP://WWW.RICHMOND.COM/NEWS/ARTICLE_8398B5F7-8949-5FE7-9FDB-2324C41B3D40.HTML](http://WWW.RICHMOND.COM/NEWS/ARTICLE_8398B5F7-8949-5FE7-9FDB-2324C41B3D40.HTML)

Protected species may throw a wrench in the bulldozer’s plan

Feds Evaluate Public Worries About Pipeline

- The Recorder – 10/8/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Feds_evaluate_public_worries_about_pipeline-Recorder_10-8-15.pdf

Virginia Certifies Globally Rare Habitats in Nelson County

- NBC29.com – 10/11/15

<HTTP://WWW.NBC29.COM/STORY/30235483/VIRGINIA-CERTIFIES-GLOBALLY-RARE-HABITATS-IN-NELSON-COUNTY>

New status may interrupt Atlantic Coast Pipeline planned route

McAuliffe as U.S. commerce secretary?

- News Leader – 10/10/15

<HTTP://WWW.NEWSLEADER.COM/STORY/NEWS/2015/10/10/MCAULIFFE-US-COMMERCE-SECRETARY/73745510/>

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Moss: What Virginia really needs is a different vision

- Roanoke Times – 10/11/15

HTTP://WWW.ROANOKE.COM/OPINION/COMMENTARY/MOSS-WHAT-VIRGINIA-REALLY-NEEDS-IS-A-DIFFERENT-VISION/ARTICLE_A093F814-7ADB-52C5-8F49-AD52337C87FC.HTML

“Growth” and “progress” mean different things to different people

Oil, Gas, Pipelines and Trains

- The News Advance – 10/8/15

http://www.newsadvance.com/opinion/editorials/oil-gas-pipelines-and-trains/article_65550256-6d2a-11e5-9a58-271c89fd34d7.html

Discussion on Foster’s RT article, advocating rail-transport of LNG instead of pipelines

Study refutes positive local effects of natural gas pipeline

- The Register Herald – 10/8/15

http://www.register-herald.com/news/study-refutes-positive-local-effects-of-natural-gas-pipeline/article_b98a358a-7576-5cc2-a5e8-1ee247f04202.html

Continued discussion of Key Log assessment of MVP’s economic impact report

Big Picture:

Is Your State Betting Too Much on Natural Gas for Electricity? A New UCS Analysis Takes a Look

- Union of Concerned Scientists – The Equation Blog – 10/13/15

<HTTP://BLOG.UCSUSA.ORG/IS-YOUR-STATE-BETTING-TOO-MUCH-ON-NATURAL-GAS-FOR-ELECTRICITY-A-NEW-UCS-ANALYSIS-TAKES-A-LOOK-918>

Interesting look at rush to gas and where it may be the biggest problem

WSJ: Electric utilities opt to skip fight against Obama carbon rules

- Seeking Alpha – 10/12/2015

<HTTP://SEEKINGALPHA.COM/NEWS/2823476-WSJ-ELECTRIC-UTILITIES-OPT-TO-SKIP-FIGHT-AGAINST-OBAMA-CARBON-RULES>

Summary excerpts from a Wall Street Journal article

Cuffed for a Pipeline: The New Blitz by Keystone-Savvy Activists

- Bloomberg Business – 10/13/15

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-10-14/gas-pipeline-foes-got-a-lesson-in-protest-tactics-from-keystone>

If not “We Shall Overcome” then at least We Are Having An Effect!