



ABRA Update #52 – October 28, 2015

Organizations Urge FERC To Conduct A PEIS For Pipelines

Thirty organizations, including ABRA and 11 of its members, wrote the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission October 26 urging the agency “to conduct a single, comprehensive regional review of all four interstate natural gas pipeline projects currently proposed for the central Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountain region of Virginia and West Virginia.” Continuing, the letter said that FERC should proceed with a programmatic environmental impact statement “that considers all of the cumulative impacts that will arise from these four proposed projects and evaluate all reasonable, less damaging alternatives.” Release of the letter was coincidental with a press conference that was widely covered in the media (see ‘In the News,’ below). The letter is available at: <http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/FERC-Pipeline-PEIS-Sign-on-letter-FINAL-10-26-15.pdf>.

ABRA Meeting Identifies Key Issue Priorities

Three-dozen representatives from ABRA member organizations met on October 24 to discuss issues, strategies and needed resources for future efforts to confront the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). The core of the session was discussion groups on environmental, legal, communications and legislative aspects of the ACP. Among the recommendations and ideas that emerged from the group deliberations were:

- Dialogue with legislators needs to intensify about the importance of erosion and sediment control plans being required by state regulatory agencies;
- Resources and experts on environmental issues need to be increased;
- Additional legal expertise is needed on a range of key issues;
- ABRA should become more of an advocacy group rather than just a networking coalition;
- More tools should be developed by ABRA to assist member groups in raising awareness of concerns about ACP among legislators, local officials and the public.
- Additional resources are needed to assure that ABRA can implement recommendations.

A report on the meeting will be issued by the Steering Committee within the next few weeks and distributed to member organizations. Implementation of recommendations will be the responsibility of the new ABRA standing committees: Legal, Communications and Advocacy, and Environmental Resources.

Nelson County Residents Invite Governor To Tour ACP Route

Over 1100 residents and business owners in Nelson County, VA have invited Governor McAuliffe to visit the county and tour the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The October 27 communication invited the Governor to meet with affected citizens, businesses and property owners.

The letter said that Nelson County “would really appreciate your taking the time to travel along the proposed route to meet and speak with your constituents on the frontline of the proposed demolition. Your visit will introduce you to landowners along the route and could

include a public forum with a question and answer session and meetings with local officials and business leaders.”

A press release issued with the letter said: “Given his statements on the ACP regarding protecting the environment and homeowners and his failure so far to act on our behalf, we think that there must be a disconnect somewhere ...The Governor could help us in numerous ways, even if he persists in justifying the pipeline on economic grounds.” A copy of the press release can be viewed at http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Nelson_County_Press_Release-Intivation_to_the_Governor-10-28-15.pdf.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Environmental group files challenge to Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- WDBJ7.com – 10/23/15

<http://www.wdbj7.com/news/local/lynchburg-bedford/environmental-group-files-challenge-to-atlantic-coast-pipeline/36009932>

Appalachian Mountain Advocates argues the pipeline is not needed and would cause irreparable harm to the environment

Are All These Pipelines Really Necessary? Legislators and Citizens Want FERC to Answer

- WVTF Radio IQ – NPR – 10/26/15

<http://wvtf.org/post/are-all-these-pipelines-really-necessary-legislators-and-citizens-want-ferc-answer#stream/o>

Attorneys spar over pipeline surveys on Augusta County land

- The News Virginian – 10/21/15

http://www.dailyprogress.com/newsvirginian/news/attorneys-spar-over-pipeline-surveys-on-augusta-county-land/article_0702f8f2-7842-11e5-aa3d-bbe6bdf1fb1d.html

And the circus continues...

Karst landscapes bring challenges, concerns for pipeline projects

- Roanoke Times – 10/25/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/virginia/karst-landscapes-bring-challenges-concerns-for-pipeline-projects/article_ae0ff6f2-bf28-586b-aoad-519720e66449.html

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Mountain Valley Pipeline Files Formal Application Requesting FERC Authorization To Construct 301-Mile Interstate Natural Gas Pipeline

- Business Wire – 10/23/15

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20151023005366/en/mountain-valley-pipeline-files-formal-application-requesting>

Roanoke County supervisors discuss pipeline application

- Roanoke Times – 10/27/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke_county/roanoke-county-supervisors-discuss-pipeline-application/article_090dcac3-259f-5b3c-b8e8-62b9d61f9f9f.html

Supervisors stress that MVP filing is not same as approval

Franklin County adds its voice to resolutions seeking state role in Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Roanoke Times – 10/20/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/franklin-county-adds-its-voice-to-resolutions-seeking-state-role/article_b4c3a727-39ad-58f3-8b46-3e596ad6922c.html

Franklin County joins its neighbors

Casey: A novel way to vote in the 2015 elections

- Roanoke Times – 10/26/15

http://www.roanoke.com/news/columns_and_blogs/columns/dan_casey/casey-a-novel-way-to-vote-in-the-elections/article_eb1c5d97-ff43-5843-bca7-5e70eea63f88.html

Instead of voting on the pipeline, perhaps we should consider voting on who is beholden to Dominion in the first place...

Big Picture:

Lawyers say FERC hinders appeals on pipeline projects

- State Impact – 10/20/2015

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/10/20/lawyers-say-ferc-hinders-appeals-on-pipeline-projects/>

This was discussed briefly at our Oct. 24th meeting...FERC can delay appeals until project is completed...thereby negating any semblance of effectiveness

Virginia Consumers: State Should Protect Ratepayers By Halting "Monumental Waste" In Dominion North Anna 3 Nuclear Project

- PRNewsWire – 10/20/15

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/virginia-consumers-state-should-protect-ratepayers-by-halting-monumental-waste-in-dominion-north-anna-3-nuclear-project-300163146.html>

Yet another way that Dominion fleeces its customers...

Duke's \$6.7B Piedmont purchase digs heels deeper into gas

- E&E Publishing – 10/27/15

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060026964>

Electric companies can use natural gas companies to fuel future growth as their own demand has slowed

New EPA rule would require natural gas processing plants to report toxic emissions

- State Impact – 10/27/2015

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2015/10/27/new-epa-rule-would-require-natural-gas-processing-plants-to-report-toxic-emissions/>

O&G industry finally responsible for reporting emissions to Toxic Release Inventory

EPA takes stance against proposed pipeline

- WALB10 News – 10/26/2015

<http://www.walb.com/story/30356670/epa-takes-stance-against-proposed-pipeline>

EPA concerned about risks to water quality, wetlands, etc.

Environmental group, gas terminal owners fight pipeline ruling

- Boston Herald – 10/28/15

http://www.bostonherald.com/business/business_markets/2015/10/environmental_group_gas_terminal_owners_fight_pipeline_ruling

Unlikely bedfellows work to prevent unnecessary pipelines...one for principle, one for profit