



ABRA Update #55 – November 18, 2015

ABRA Files Comments With FERC On ACP Soils Survey Fiasco

ABRA submitted comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on November 17 calling on the agency to reexamine the pending application of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACPLLC) and question the soil surveys conducted along the entire pipeline route. The United States Forest Service (USFS) had complained on November 5 to FERC that the ACPLLC had misrepresented soils surveying it had conducted in October in the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. The USFS said that the company failed to follow appropriate surveying protocols or use qualified persons to conduct the surveying, and then misrepresented to the USFS the facts of the surveying. ABRA urged FERC to reject any data gathered in last month's surveying. Noting that soils testing is a crucial part of determining the environmental suitability of a proposed route, ABRA called the improper testing another example of corporate incompetence and strong evidence of purposeful deceit by ACPLLC.

The ABRA filing is available at: [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ABRA Letter To FERC On ACP Soils Surveys 11-17-15-.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ABRA_Letter_To_FERC_On_ACP_Soils_Surveys_11-17-15-.pdf).

A press release that was sent to Virginia and West Virginia media is available at: [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ABRA Press Release On ACP Soils Surveying 11-17-15.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ABRA_Press_Release_On_ACP_Soils_Surveying_11-17-15.pdf).

Meetings With EPA and FWS Requested

Appalachian Mountain Advocates, an ABRA member, has requested individual meetings with regional directors for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to discuss “concerns and provide valuable information regarding major natural gas infrastructure projects proposed for construction in the Mid-Atlantic region.” The November 5 requests were made on behalf of 38 additional organizations, 27 of them ABRA members. A copy of the letters requesting meetings are available at:

<http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/EPA-Pipeline-meeting-request-11-5-15.pdf> and <http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/FWS-Pipeline-meeting-request-11-5-15.pdf>.

New Dominion Economic Study Released

Dominion Resources released on November 17 a new economic study claiming that the company's various energy infrastructure projects that are underway will “support an average of more than 11,900 jobs per year” in Virginia through 2020. The study, conducted by Chmura Economics & Analytics of Richmond, includes Dominion electric generation projects as well as the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Chmura projects 53% of the new employment will be direct employment generated by projects under consideration, 20% will result from indirect economic activity resulting from the projects, and 27% will be “induced,” that is “economic activity generated when the workers at the power station and their suppliers spend their income.” A copy of the company's press release is available at [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Dominion pr new Chmura study 11-17-15.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Dominion_pr_new_Chmura_study_11-17-15.pdf). The Chmura study in its entirety is at <https://www.dom.com/library/domcom/pdfs/dom-cap-ex.pdf>.

ACP Makes Supplemental Filing

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline filed on November 13 with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission supplementary information that includes the status of environmental, biological and invasive plant species surveys. The filing also identifies hydrostatic test water discharge locations on U.S. Forest Service lands. ABRA members are reviewing the filing regarding its implications. The filing is available at [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ACP supplemental filing 11-13-15 opt.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/ACP_supplemental_filing_11-13-15_opt.pdf).

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Trust Eroding Even Further

- The Recorder – 11/12/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/trust_eroding_even_further-recorder_11-12-15.pdf

“...another example of Dominion failing to live up to its own expectations.”

Dominion Jumped Gun on Proposed Route

- The Recorder – 11/12/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/dominion_jumped_gun_on_proposed_route-recorder_11-12-15.pdf

Dominion has put the cart before the horse from day one!

Sinkhole sparks safety, pipeline concerns

- News Leader – 11/14/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2015/11/14/sinkhole-sparks-safety-pipeline-concerns/75768270/>

“We have zero confidence in these people...”

Dominion PR, safety blunders worrisome

- News Leader – 11/14/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/editorials/2015/11/14/dominion-pr-safety-blunders-worrisome/75793306/>

Putting Easements to the Test

- Bacon’s Rebellion – 11/6/15

<http://www.baconsrebellion.com/2015/11/putting-easements-to-the-test.html>

“The process we’ve used for the past 100 years in Virginia is no longer working,” (PEC)

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

The PennEast Pipeline is not needed | Opinion

- NJ.com – 11/11/15

http://www.nj.com/hunterdon/index.ssf/2015/11/the_penneast_pipeline_is_not_needed_opinion.html

Sounds familiar!

New study indicates gas drilling could impact rivers, streams

- StandardSpeaker.com – 11/16/15

<http://standardspeaker.com/news/new-study-indicates-gas-drilling-could-impact-rivers-streams-1.1971988>

We knew this, but it’s nice to have quantitative backup

Big Picture:

Opinion/Letter: Energy projections tell pipeline story

- The Daily Progress – 11/17/215

http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-letter-energy-projections-tell-pipeline-story/article_b509a21e-8cad-11e5-9d83-1f5bcb984e55.html

Lots of good info in here!

Obama Administration Approves Pipeline Expansion Set to Feed First Ever Fracked Gas Export Terminal

- DeSmogBlog.com – 11/13/15

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2015/11/13/obama-ferc-gulf-trace-export-pipeline-cheniere-sabine-pass-lng>

To be sure, FERC is not “the Obama Administration”, but a good look at the revolving door, nonetheless

Utilities Buying Gas Pipelines Better Watch Out for Batteries

- Bloomberg Business – 11/11/15

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-11-11/utilities-buying-gas-pipelines-better-watch-out-for-batteries>

Another risk of stranded assets