



ABRA Update #59 – December 17, 2015

Forest Service Says ACP Route Adjustments Are Inadequate

The U.S. National Forest Service (NFS) has raised serious questions about proposed route changes for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, saying they are inadequate to address harm to habitats of the Cheat Mountain salamander in the Monongahela National Forest (MNF), Cow Knob salamander in the George Washington National Forest on Shenandoah Mountain and the Northern Flying Squirrel, as well as the NFS's priority restoration of red spruce in the MNF. The December 11 comments filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), signed by Clyde Thompson, Supervisor of the MNF, observed that "the central Appalachians contain the last relatively un-fragmented large forest blocks in the mid-Atlantic states." The NFS comments also suggested that a claim made in an earlier ACP filing, relying upon the analysis of a well-known expert on the Cheat Mountain salamander, was in fact a misrepresentation. Speaking of the threat to the Northern Flying Squirrel, the comments said that "given the extensive acreage of WVNFS habitat that would be impacted by the proposed ACP route, including the fragmentation of existing intact WVNFS habitat, it is extremely difficult to envision any construction scenario that would not result in adverse effects to local populations." The NFS comments are available at [http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/USFS Comments on Route Variations Affecting USFS Lands 20151211.pdf](http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/USFS_Comments_on_Route_Variations_Affecting_USFS_Lands_20151211.pdf). For more, read the Recorder article listed below.

Three Virginia Congressman Call for Broadening ACP and MCP Review

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (VA-6-R), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and two colleagues from the Virginia delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives have written Federal Regulatory Commission Chairman Norman C. Bay ask that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline be "collectively considered in the context of existing regional energy infrastructure and projected regional energy needs." The December 9 letter said that "failing to consider the totality of the circumstances would be short-sighted." Also signing the letter were Congressman Robert Hurt (VA-5-R), a member of the House Financial Services Committee, and Congressman Morgan Griffith (VA-9-R), a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The congressmen's letter also "if FERC will consider the potential economic impacts that these proposals may have in the respective communities that could be impacted" and "how FERC considers pipeline proposals on a regional basis and assesses their potential economic impacts."

The congressmen's letter is available at:
http://elibrary.FERC.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151211-0026.

BLM No Longer Directly Involved in ACP

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has informed FERC that “as a result of re-routing around FWS (Fish and Wildlife Service) land, BLM no longer has a regulatory requirement to coordinate an authorization for the ACP project under the interagency coordination provision of MLA (Mineral Leasing Act).” The December 4 letter notes that if the Forest Service grants approval for the project, it will represent a grant for all Federal lands under the jurisdiction in compliance with MLA requirements. The letter is at http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?accession_num=20151214-0013.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline Must Avoid Salamanders, USFS Says

- The Recorder – 12/17/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/pipeline_must_avoid_salamanders_usfs_says-recorder_12-17-15.pdf

US Forest Service basically shuts down ACP’s submitted route alternatives....what’s next?

Monitoring Of ACP-crossed Streams To Begin

- The Recorder – 12/17/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/monitoring_of_acp-crossed_streams_to_begin-recorder_12-17-15.pdf

Aided by Trout unlimited, Highland residents stepping up to protect their water resources

Pipeline Monitoring Group To Petition EPA

- The Recorder – 12/17/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/pipeline_monitoring_group_to_petition_epa-recorder_12-17-15.pdf

If DEQ can’t or won’t do its job, then it’s time to go to the Feds!

Keep Up Solidarity –Editorial

- The Recorder – 12/17/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/keep_up_solidarity-recorder_editorial_12-17-15.pdf

Recently, FERC and other agencies have begun to indicate that they hear us...now is not the time to let up!

Don’t Allow Shoddy Pipeline Construction –Editorial

- The Recorder – 12/10/15

http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/dont_allow_shoddy_pipeline_construction-recorder_12-10-15.pdf

Citizens must fight to make sure DEQ and other regulatory agencies actually *regulate* and protect our interests and environment

Dominion’s Logic Fails, Again

- News leader – 12/11/15

<http://www.newsleader.com/story/opinion/columnists/2015/12/11/dominions-logic-fails/77175086/>
Dominion – “Yes we can build safely in karst.” Us – “Prove it!”

Chamber Supports Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Tidewater News – 12/11/15

<http://www.tidewaternews.com/2015/12/11/chamber-supports-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>

Franklin-Southampton Chamber of Commerce in favor of ACP

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

FERC Chairman Rejects Overarching Review Of Pipeline Projects

- Roanoke Times – 12/9/15

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/ferc-chairman-rejects-overarching-review-of-pipeline-projects/article_265b4fe9-610b-554b-9f36-136060doda66.html

As usual...FERC's approach is "Business As Usual"

Big Picture:

Pipeline Scrutiny Heats Up

- New Hampshire Business Review – 12/11/15

<http://www.nhbr.com/december-11-2015/pipeline-scrutiny-heats-up/>

It seems tables have turned on Kinder Morgan's NED project...at least in the media

Flooding Broke Gas Line, Analysis Says

- Arkansas Online – 12/12/15

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2015/dec/12/flooding-broke-gas-line-analysis-says-2/>

Shallow trenching in flood-prone rivers not safe for pipelines

Suit Seeks To Find Out If Berkshire Gas Moratorium Is Needed Or Is Political Ploy In Support Of Kinder Morgan Project

- MassLive.com – 12/11/15

http://www.masslive.com/business-news/index.ssf/2015/12/suit_seeks_to_find_out_if_berkshire_gas.html

Berkshire says it can't sell what it doesn't have, but NED opponents think something smells...and it isn't gas!

Kinder Morgan Finances Raise Concerns

- SentinalSource.com – 12/14/15

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/kinder-morgan-finances-raise-concerns/article_4197a1ca-4d3a-509d-87bc-216a1159e933.html

KM's finances a major concern to communities to whom it's made big promises

Kinder Morgan's Pipeline Safety Record Less Than Stellar

- Savannah Morning News – 12/12/15

<http://savannahnow.com/news/2015-12-12/kinder-morgans-pipeline-safety-record-less-stellar#>

KM's safety record a worry to those in the path of the proposed Palmetto Pipeline

Protesters Call For Immediate Shutdown Of Porter Ranch Gas Field

- Los Angeles Daily News – 12/12/15

<http://www.dailynews.com/general-news/20151212/protesters-call-for-immediate-shutdown-of-porter-ranch-gas-field>

Strange we didn't hear much, if anything, about this

- <http://www.dailynews.com/environment-and-nature/20151211/heres-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-porter-ranch-gas-leak>

- <http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2015/12/14/the-hidden-climate-threat-that-gas-companies-noticed-but-rarely-fixed/>