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In this high Allegheny Mountain country, push is coming to shove in Dominion's feverish desire to ram their 42" pipeline through our region. Dominion would have us believe it's all a done deal, but many details of the permitting process are still being sought by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Meanwhile, pop-up villages of pipeliners are already materializing in many parts of Randolph County, company "man camps" are being constructed up the valley, and land owners are being encouraged to cut "right-of-ways" on forested slopes to make ready for the pipeline. Significant mountain top removal (MTR) will follow before the 42-inch pipe is laid. It's like watching race horses in a starting gate. Like a gold rush. The reason for the haste is that more and more people and communities are wising up to Dominion's tactics, and resistance is steadily taking shape. Dominion, with its threats of Eminent Domain, and the other companies tearing up West Virginia are hard-pressed to demonstrate the *need* for the project. With the development of solar energy exceeding all expectations nationally, the "natural" gas pipelines are not needed. Confusion abounds. But some things about this savage trenching of our precipitous terrain and mountain tops are very clear:

**1. No 42" pipeline has ever before been laid across such rugged country as ours.** The Dominion geologists and engineers have planned this project with unacceptable levels of calculated risk. All of their previous calculations have been applied to level and gently rolling land, and have not been proven to work on steep mountain slopes averaging 15 to 20 degrees and beset with seismic activity. Subsidence from old, underground mines can cause major shifts. A major storm event will erode a pipeline trench over night, causing movement of the joints and threatening to burst the line. There are 105 welds per mile. The eroded soil will wash into streams and rivers causing sedimentation at the very least, a threat to brook trout in the higher elevations and aquatic life throughout the water sheds. Besides suspended solids, this water may contain petroleum hydrocarbons, diesel, anti-freeze, plastics, oils and blasting agents. The threats to our water resources are beyond imagination. In this motherland of rivers rising with purple majesty around us, these water resources exceed the value of everything else beneath the surface. For life without water is inconceivable. Native populations flourished for 20 thousand years here without gas, oil or coal. These extractive industries are no longer essential to human development. Quite the contrary.

**2. Water is a finite and non-renewable resource and tourism a 5 billion dollar industry in West Virginia.** With the invasion by thousands of pipeline workers from places like Texas, Louisiana and Mexico, much of our available local lodging is booked for the foreseeable future. Where is a tourist to find accommodations in this turbulent Boom & Bust economy? Interest in this region cultivated over decades by imaginative programming throughout the tourist industry, will quickly wane with industrial expansion and degradation. Water loss will also be disastrous to our traditional agricultural way of life, for the new pipe line will bring gas fracking, hundreds of wells, to suck our

streams and rivers dry, turn our pastures brown, and deplete our food chain of animal products, from meat to cheese. And our fledgeling beer producers, without pure water, will be hung out to dry.

**3. Explosions and chemical spills can shut us down forever.** These catastrophes have already brought grief and illness to numerous communities throughout the region where air and water have been compromised by industrial “accidents.” Dominion itself has a shabby safety record due to poor design and hasty construction. From cancer to birth defects, these predictable mishaps have ravaged the public health and wellness of rural communities plagued by natural gas development and transmission. Corporate violence to our air and water has been linked with epidemic opioid addiction. Imagine our despair. A 42” pipeline carrying 1.5 billion cubic feet of flammable, fracked gas per day at 1440 pounds per square inch has a blast radius of 3600 feet in all directions in which everything would be vaporized and burnt to a crisp. Dominion’s Atlantic Coast Pipeline is mapped to lay less than 2600 feet from the Buchannon-Upshur High School and only 1200 feet from the nearby State Police Barracks. This callous disregard for human life is criminal, and could only be endorsed by a county commission bought and paid for by Dominion. In West Virginia extractive industry has always had it’s way with our politicians. Extractive corporations have been quick to designate West Virginia as a sacrifice zone for the energy needs of the rest of the country. From our U.S. senators and congressional delegation and our own legislative branch to our county commissioners, West Virginia’s leaders have accommodated these reckless developments all along.

**4. Roads blocked during construction phase could hinder the flow of traffic,** cutting off residents and pipeline workers from emergency services. With 125-150 truck trips a day, how could we begin to enforce weight limits on our secondary roads and bridges. Dominion has never paid its way on road use and damages to the local infrastructure. And consider how indefensible this toxic, explosive pipeline is and will remain, should it be built through this rugged region over popular objection. The 150 foot wide, 556-mile long corridor is visible from space and serves as a convenient terrorist target. It’s a recipe for a future ruled by unrelenting fear and trembling.

**5. This Atlantic Coast Pipeline is of no benefit to West Virginians.** If gas is extracted from West Virginia for export to China, as Dominion intends, we soon will have none left for our own future. How long then until the dollar becomes the yen? Local job opportunities will be scant and temporary. The high-paying, skilled jobs will go to to trained and loyal professionals who travel with the company from site to site living in company man-camps and pop-up villages. And we’re saddled with the final cost of the project. Meanwhile we sit here digesting the lies and litany from our political leaders about jobs, jobs, jobs, when we still can’t find one. Our jobs will come with wider acceptance of renewable energy, and an emerging economy based on adapting what we know how to do better than anyone else: be energy producers—this time from renewable sources.

**6. The pipeline crew people must remain in our prayers** and though we despise their activity, we fear for their lives and families back home. We wish they would return safely to their families back home and hold their children who love and miss them. In a profit hungry economy those human longings are never taken into consideration. Here’s some

breaking news as of this 12-29-17 writing, from Mark West:

*At approximately 1 p.m. (Thursday, 12-28-17), while installing new pipe on a right of way in Ohio County, West Virginia, a subcontractor was fatally injured. Federal and state regulatory agencies have been contacted. Work on this project was immediately suspended and MarkWest issued a safety stand-down on all similar work sites across the ti-state region while we thoroughly investigate this tragic event. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and co-workers of the deceased.*

*“Oh take back your flowers, don't you sing no sad song.  
The die has been cast now and a good man is gone”*

– Hazel Dickens, from “Black Lung”

**7. The “trickle down” economy under President Reagan didn’t work for poor and working people then.** With corporate lobbying in the early 1980s, the monumental transfer of wealth easily slid into the clutches of the wealthy. Rich people, sadly, are mostly not interested in reinvesting in ways that strengthen and affirm local communities. And as alien corporate land grabbing expands in West Virginia, working people are forced to leave in search of work elsewhere, creating boom-and-bust economies in our towns and leaving our forest lands and water compromised, our wells poisoned or dry. Trickle down didn’t work under Reagan and this grab-all “Tax Reform” just passed with corporate funding by our greedy ” trickle-down” Congress will put *all* of our schools on the auction block. Ten thousand West Virginians have left the state in the past 18 months. The corporate thrust is to depopulate the region so they can have at what’s left. Take it down to the nub. This pipeline isn’t just an inconvenience and a smudge on our environment. It’s a calculated assault on our most precious resource: without water we will parish and our bones will bleach on poisoned, arid land. Just ask the 300,000 people of the Kanawha River Valley and beyond about industrial water poisoning. “Accidents will happen,” is no longer an acceptable explanation.

“Come people, gather round, we can figure this out  
We must shut her down, without a doubt.  
Pure mountain water, our dearest resource,  
Don’t stand a chance against this killing force.

“There’s mean things happening in this land.  
It’s time for us to take a stand.”

-- Michael Kline from “Dominion Pipeline

Blues”

**8. Where’s the Plan?** Administrative agencies in Randolph County, from the County Commission to the Elkins City Council, have yet to come up with a comprehensive emergency plan on how to respond to these various threats to our health and well-being. We want to work with all the appropriate agencies to deal effectively with waste water, solid waste disposal in temporary worker communities and camp grounds, impacts to our watersheds, storm-water runoff, and impacts to our secondary roads and bridges, to name a few of the current concerns.

## INFO ON THE NEW PIPELINES AND REASONS TO QUESTION THEM

Explosions happen often and can be fatal.  
If the new pipelines exploded they would burn everyone in a 3600 foot radius.  
Pipeline leaks endanger our water and health.  
We are likely to see accidents and deaths of pipeliners working on this steep terrain.  
Access roads and pipelines create erosion, floods, water pollution and endangers homes.  
Our gas bills will increase to pay for proposed new pipelines.  
Our communities will be saddled with the costs long after the companies have left.  
We will get few local jobs and these will be temporary.  
New pipelines create more fracking which imperils children through air pollution.  
New pipelines and fracking threaten our drinking water.  
Pipeline development creates a traffic nightmare through our towns and backroads.  
Oil and gas traffic is dangerous for school buses.  
Pipeline workers far from home have been known to harm young girls.  
Pipeliners bring in a fresh pipeline of drugs that remains after they're gone.  
Long-term economic progress through agriculture & tourism are jeopardized by the pipelines.  
West Virginia's gas resource will be exported to China, leaving us without our own reserves.  
The pipeline developers have out-of-state headquarters and do not care about local people.

### ACT NOW:

Write to newspapers, newsletters, friends and politicians.  
Do your own research.  
Present these views to your local organizations.  
Bring these issues to the City Council, County Commission, County Health Department, local, county and state police departments. Set up meetings to help people understand.  
Inform your doctor and nurse of the dangers of pipelines and fracking.  
Come up with ideas of your own. Network. Speak out.  
Show a film and hold a discussion.  
Attend community meetings and insist on comprehensive planning.  
Very few people want new pipelines. Far more oppose them. Get together. Stand together.  
***We can stop*** the pipelines.

Brought to you by concerned local citizens. For more information see the Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance, based locally and online at <http://www.mountainlakespreservation.org>.