



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
RICHMOND

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March 10, 2015

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:  
EDUCATION  
GENERAL LAWS  
HEALTH, WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS

TWENTIETH DISTRICT  
Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing to you with regard to the scoping period for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. I am a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the people of the 20<sup>th</sup> House District. My district includes parts of Nelson and Augusta County and all of Highland County.

I understand that on February 27, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission announced the opening of a 60 day scoping period for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to end April 28. Furthermore, I understand that the scoping meeting in Nelson County was scheduled for March 18. I am concerned that this scheduled meeting and the 60 day scoping period does not give impacted residents enough time to fully understand the impact on their property and provide the commission with detailed comments.

As you may already be aware, on Monday, Feb. 23, Dominion announced alternate routes through Nelson that doubled the number of impacted landowners and parcels. They did not take any previously publicized routes off the table, nor have they determined their "preferred route." From conversations with several Nelson residents, I understand that as of Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, property owners were still receiving their first notification that they were now on the route. I fear that a March 18 meeting does not leave these newly impacted property owners nearly enough time to fully grasp how this could impact their property. For that reason, I hope you will consider postponing the March 18 meeting date to allow these newly impacted property owners more time to compile the information they need to provide meaningful feedback to FERC.

Additionally, I hope you will consider extending the scoping period from 60 days to 90 days. The vast majority of this pipeline crosses private property and the proposed route in Nelson has nearly doubled. I believe it would be extremely difficult for the newly affected property owners to get up to speed on the regulatory process and potential impact on their land in such a short time frame. The residents of Nelson County need this extra time to be able to identify sensitive ecological, historical, cultural, and geological areas on their properties and assemble adequate documents to present to FERC to show these impacts.

According to FERC's website, "The scoping process is one of the opportunities for public involvement. Affected property owners and other stakeholders can provide detailed comments about issues pertaining to their properties. For example, stakeholders can provide information on sensitive environmental features in the project area; suggest alternatives to be evaluated; or help identify construction constraints." I believe that a fair and transparent regulatory process requires that citizens have the time and ability to present their concerns. Given the new route developments in Nelson County, I believe a 90 day scoping period is what is fair and necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance as this process moves forward please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Dickie Bell