



ABRA Update #142 – August 10, 2017

Hundreds Turn Out to Express Water Concerns Over ACP & MVP



Massive crowds turned out for the hearings conducted this week by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regarding whether water quality certificates under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should be issued for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and the Mountain Valley Pipeline. The pictures above show the crowds – inside and outside – at James Madison University in Harrisonburg for the Monday, August 7 hearing on the ACP application. More coverage on the water quality hearings are in the articles below.

Please support ABRA's important work by clicking [here](#).

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Pipeline opponents demand action from state at DEQ hearing

- News Leader – 8/8/17
<http://www.newsleader.com/story/news/local/2017/08/08/pipeline-opponents-demand-action-state-deq-hearing/547485001/>

Lack of trust in the regulatory body's environmental assessment process unites opposition.

Related:

- <http://bluevirginia.us/2017/08/science-clear-mountain-stream-500-show-atlantic-coast-pipeline-demand-deq-job>
- <http://bluevirginia.us/2017/08/video-photos-harrisonburg-rockingham-county-residents-stare-goliath-greed-dominion-destructive-fracked-gas-pipelines>

Virginia Agency May Not Have Properly Vetted Contractor Reviewing Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- DeSmog – 8/9/17
<https://www.desmogblog.com/2017/08/09/virginia-agency-deq-vetted-contractor-eee-consulting-atlantic-coast-pipeline>

DEQ apparently didn't think to ask if consultant was working for Dominion on projects *other than* the ACP.

Related:

- http://www.richmond.com/business/virginia-s-environmental-agency-says-contractor-s-work-for-dominion/article_da3d5a4f-adcc-5ee0-86d5-0676afc5a2fo.html

Start pipeline review over, group demands

- The Recorder – 8/10/17
https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Start_pipeline_review_over_group_demands-Recorder_20170810.pdf

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League recommended DEQ postpone the 401 water certification process until all soil and erosion control and stormwater management plans are made public.

DEQ hosts more public listening sessions on Atlantic Coast Pipeline; new FERC members bode ill for opponents

- The Progressive Pulse – 8/8/17
<http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2017/08/08/deq-hosts-public-listening-sessions-atlantic-coast-pipeline-new-ferc-members-bode-ill-opponents/#sthash.RvSemz1i.dpbs>

Hearing dates and locations listed in article.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Editorial: Three questions for FERC

- The Roanoke Times – 8/10/17
http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/editorials/editorial-three-questions-for-ferc/article_1b44ef0e-6436-53e2-9466-47a849768fac.html

Long-asked questions still await a reasonable answer.

Pipeline proponents, opponents sound off at public hearing in Radford

- The Roanoke Times – 8/8/17
http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/roanoke_county/pipeline-proponents-opponents-sound-off-at-public-hearing-in-radford/article_01c5ee74-5e32-52df-b6ff-50855ea43a31.html

DEQ sought public comment on draft conditions the agency might recommend if the State Water Control Board decides to grant Mountain Valley the Clean Water Act 401 water quality certification it needs from Virginia to proceed with construction.

The Appalachian Trail Is the "Lousiest Place" to Put Two Pipelines

- Sierra – 7/31/17
http://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/appalachian-trail-lousiest-place-put-two-pipelines?utm_source=insider&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Getting Real with Pipeline Disasters in West Virginia

- EarthWorks – 8/3/17

https://www.earthworksaction.org/earthblog/detail/getting_real_with_pipeline_disasters_in_west_virginia#.WYyZcFGGOuk

Time and time again we have seen where mitigation plans outlined on paper, most especially the incomplete plans provided by pipeline companies, don't match the reality on the ground.

Funding sources lined up for hydrogeological study

- The Register-herald – 8/5/17

http://www.register-herald.com/news/funding-sources-lined-up-for-hydrogeological-study/article_5d5a02b5-15b2-5b72-aae1-a9c3b338e790.html

Although the project is unlikely to conclude before drilling begins for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a multi-county hydrogeological study is nearing the end of the planning stage.

Big Picture:

Chatterjee named chairman as quorum reached

- E&E News – 8/10/17

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Chatterjee_named_chairman_as_quorum_reached-EE_News_20170810.pdf

FERC once again has a quorum...and a new chairman. Will the floodgates now open for backlogged energy projects?

Related:

- <http://www.mcall.com/news/nationworld/pennsylvania/mc-nws-ferc-20170803-story.html>

Trump now has the votes to feed US fracking frenzy with new gas pipelines

- Norwalk Reflector – 8/6/17

<http://www.norwalkreflector.com/Government/2017/08/06/Trump-now-has-the-votes-to-feed-US-fracking-frenzy-with-new-gas-pipelines.html>

Climate Change Now Impacting U.S., Government Report Warns

- National Geographic – 8/8/17

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/08/climate-change-government-draft-review-usa-environment-spd/>

Readers can link to the latest (5th order) draft mid-way through the article...which mainly references an earlier draft released last December.

Related:

- <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/345927-odd-man-out-mr-trump-embrace-new-energy-and-climate>

Climate change will hit New England hard, report says

- The Boston Globe – 8/9/17

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/08/09/climate-change-will-hit-new-england-hard-report-says/064xmoCjuewy1PzD5zkZCP/story.html>

If little is done to cut the rise in emissions, average annual temperatures in the Northeast could rise between 5.3 degrees and 9.1 degrees Fahrenheit by 2071, according to the report.

Pipeline Payday: How Builders Win Big, Whether More Gas Is Needed or Not

- Inside Climate News – 8/3/17

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/02082017/natural-gas-pipeline-boom-corporate-profit-bubble-limited-demand-climate-emissions>

"Demand" for new pipelines may come mainly from shareholders and C-Suite execs.

Clean coal utility giant sued over claims it misled investors

- The Washington Examiner – 8/9/17

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/clean-coal-utility-giant-sued-over-claims-it-misled-investors/article/2631027>

Might Southern Co.'s "Clean Coal" boondoggle be a sign of things to come for other fossil fuel infrastructure?

A Senate panel speaks for sound clean energy policy — and rebukes Trump

- Brookings Institution – 8/8/17

https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2017/08/08/a-senate-rebukes-trump/?utm_campaign=Metropolitan%20Policy%20Program&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=55173335