



ABRA Update #169 – February 22, 2018

Agenda for March 3 ABRA Meeting Announced

ABRA's special meeting to unveil details about the new Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI) will also feature a panel discussion on the status of various legal challenges on government agency decisions made about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The meeting will take place on Saturday, March 3, from 1:30 to 5 pm at the Holiday Inn in Staunton, VA (152 Fairway Lane, Staunton, VA, located at the intersection of I-81 and Rt. 262).

The meeting is open to representatives from all ABRA member organizations, as well as others interested in learning more about the program. There is no charge for attending, but registration is required. Afternoon refreshments will be provided. [To register, click here.](#)

Here's the agenda:

- Discussion of the status and prospects for legal challenges to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline – *Joe Lovett, Appalachian Mountain Advocates; Greg Buppert, Southern Environmental Law Center; and David Sligh, Wild Virginia*
- Overview of the CSI program – *Rick Webb, Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition*
- Pipeline Air Force: what it is and how it will operate – *Jeff Shingleton*
- Stream monitoring program – *Jake Lemon, Trout Unlimited*
- Citizen reporting: how it will work – *Dan Shaffer, ABRA*
- Next steps: how people can become involved – *Lewis Freeman, ABRA*

Initial registration for the meeting is strong and space is limited, so register soon. This is a meeting not to be missed!

Friends of Nelson Sponsoring Landowner Meeting with Attorneys

A special meeting for landowners affected by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) will be held on Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm at the Rockfish Presbyterian Church, Rt. 151, in Nellysford, VA. Featured speakers will be attorneys Chris Johns and Isak Howell, who focus on representing landowners across the country in pipeline takings and who are currently representing several landowners on the ACP and will give an overview of where things stand with the project and legal challenges to it. Josh Korman, a licensed appraiser with experience in valuing the impact that pipelines have on land values, will also speak. Further details [here](#).

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Scenes from the Battlefield



On the left is the aftermath of tree cutting for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. On the right is a once majestic oak felled beside a stream. Both scenes are on private land in western Augusta County. Thanks to Jack Wilson of White's Wayside for both photos.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Atlantic Coast Pipeline price tag could hit \$6.5B, Duke Energy CEO says — Charlotte Business Journal

- NC WARN - 2/20/18

<http://www.ncwarn.org/2018/02/atlantic-coast-pipeline-price-tag/>

"Due to delays and more stringent conditions in the permitting process, ACP now estimates total project cost between \$6 billion and \$6.5 billion."

Group: Property values plunge along pipeline route in Highland County, Nelson County

- Augusta Free Press – 2/22/18

<https://augustafreepress.com/group-property-values-plunge-along-pipeline-route-highland-county-nelson-county/>

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dismissed the concerns of affected landowners, citizens, and grassroots groups regarding lower property values along the path of the proposed ACP in its Final Environmental Impact Statement

Pipeline requests get attention on both sides

- The Recorder – 2/21/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Pipeline_requests_get_attention_on_both_sides-Recorder_20180221.pdf

\$58 million Atlantic Coast Pipeline mitigation agreement draws fire

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 2/18/18

http://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/million-atlantic-coast-pipeline-mitigation-agreement-draws-fire/article_b88dd362-91df-5cf9-8dec-34fc35ac5356.html

Many questions remain about the deal, including whether it limits Dominion's liability for damage above and beyond the specified amount.

After Losing a Vote On the “Double Dip,” Is Dominion Finally Losing Power?

- Blue Virginia – 2/17/18

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/02/after-losing-a-vote-on-the-double-dip-is-dominion-losing-power>

Related:

- http://www.dailyprogress.com/opinion/opinion-commentary-tide-is-turning-on-dominion-energy/article_71665fea-1368-11e8-b2a2-bfafa08775e0c.html

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

Federal judge grants preliminary injunction to Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 2/21/18

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/federal-judge-grants-preliminary-injunction-to-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_f6059301-351d-5e0c-9d97-9b9ca53e73bc.html

MVP's contractor ran into environmental problems during construction of other pipelines

- The Roanoke Times – 2/17/18

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/mvp-s-contractor-ran-into-environmental-problems-during-construction-of/article_d6c10d6a-b586-568a-8621-ac58177e3084.html

Opponents of the Mountain Valley project fear that the pipeline will bring the same problems to Southwest Virginia. It will.

Environmental groups puts up legal 'roadblock' against Mountain Valley Pipelines

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 2/18/18

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/environmental-groups-puts-up-legal-roadblock-against-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_a3ab59ba-6c80-5cfc-8549-c3fd8b255f46.html

Suit alleges that the Army Corps of Engineers’ “dredge and fill” permit is invalid since West Virginia waived its right to perform a required water quality analysis.

The quagmire of eminent domain and pipelines

- GoDanRiver.com – 2/18/18

http://www.godanriver.com/opinion/editorials/the-quagmire-of-eminent-domain-and-pipelines/article_8f494634-135f-11e8-a3d1-d3ab9251e0bd.html

In June 2005 in *Kelso v. New London, Conn.*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 that a state entity could constitutionally exercise its eminent domain power to take private property from one private owner and give it to another private owner as a “public use” without violating the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

Big Picture:

The Energy 202: Trump's infrastructure plan would make it harder to challenge pipelines

- The Washington Post – 2/16/18

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/02/16/the-energy-202-trump-s-infrastructure-plan-would-make-it-harder-to-challenge-pipelines/5a860e5b30fbo47655a0679c/?utm_term=.6126c17e1d6a

FERC order opens 'floodgates' for energy storage in wholesale markets

- Utility Dive – 2/20/18

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/ferc-order-opens-floodgates-for-energy-storage-in-wholesale-markets/517326/>

Opening wholesale markets to energy storage could encourage a variety of utility-scale storage projects, which could in turn spur further price declines as development accelerates.

Related:

- <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/jennifer-chen/ferc-storage-rule-win-more-flexible-grid>

Industry group draws scrutiny over barrage of fraudulent emails in South Carolina

- Think Progress – 2/21/18
<https://thinkprogress.org/fraudulent-emails-utility-merger-161fa5b459ce/>
 “Consumers Energy Alliance” up to its old tricks in South Carolina.
- Related:**
- <http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article201172179.html>

New Jersey officials resist pipeline company’s eminent domain push

- Think Progress – 2/20/18
<https://thinkprogress.org/new-jersey-pipeline-resistance-0207c61263b5/>
 State environmental agency urges federal regulators to hit pause in PennEast case.

Natural gas industry surprised it could be so much cleaner

- liveMint – 2/20/18
<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/7tdvD9BmeZrxioTBDHLteK/Natural-gas-industry-surprised-it-could-be-so-much-cleaner.html>
 “Implementing just those measures that pay for themselves, by monetizing the captured methane, would have the same long-term impact on mitigating climate change as immediately shutting all existing coal-fired power plants in China,” said Christophe McGlade, an oil and gas analyst at the International Energy Agency.
- Related:**
- <https://thinkprogress.org/stunning-new-research-finds-fracking-a-major-source-of-carbon-pollution-in-pennsylvania-9d2bdb63f2ec/>

Why countries with biggest renewable reserves will become superpowers of tomorrow

- Independent – 2/21/18
<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/renewable-superpowers-fossil-fuel-era-over-reserves-lithium-copper-rare-metals-solar-energy-a8217786.html>
 The fossil fuel era won’t last forever – when it finally comes to an end a new set of countries will find their reserves of lithium, copper and rare metals are in high demand

China’s Coming Challenge to the U.S. Petro-Economy

- Council on Foreign Relations
<https://www.cfr.org/blog/chinas-coming-challenge-us-petro-economy>
 “China is banking on clean energy technologies as major industrial exports that will compete with U.S. and Russian oil and gas and make China the renewable energy and electric vehicle superpower of a future energy world.” We are moving back toward exporting primary resources...a 21st century banana republic.