



ABRA Update #184 – June 7, 2018

One Week Remains to Comment on ACP Stream Crossings

The new deadline for submitting comments on the adequacy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NWP 12 program for stream crossings of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline is only 8-days away: Friday, June 15. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality announced the new deadline on June 2.

Written comments may be submitted via hand-delivery to DEQ, 1111 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219; via postal mail to DEQ, P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23218; or via e-mail at the following email address(es) ONLY – *emails and attachments sent to other email addresses or internet sites will not be considered*:

- NWP12InfoOnMVP@deq.virginia.gov
- NWP12InfoOnACP@deq.virginia.gov

All ABRA members are urged to file their own comments and encourage their members and constituencies to do so as well. To assist ABRA in its ongoing analysis of the issue of ACP stream crossings, please send copies of your filed comments to lewfreeman@gmail.com or to ABRA, P.O. Box 96, Monterey, VA 24465.

Wild Virginia has prepared an excellent guide to provide assistance: “Suggestions for Comments to DEQ Public Notice Impacts from Waterbody Crossings and Water Quality Standards,” available at <https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Comments-in-Response-to-DEQ-Public-Notice-corrected.pdf>.

Another helpful resource is an impact table of waters potentially affected by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The document is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District and is available at: <https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/VA-waters-impacted-by-ACP-U.S.-Corps-of-Engineers-11-30-17.pdf>.

CSI Volunteer Ranks Grow, Team Leaders Needed

The number of persons who have signed up to participate as citizen observers and reporters of incidents of pipeline violations continues to grow. But, more volunteers are needed. To sign up, click [here](#).

ABRA is also assembling teams of incident investigators who can assist ABRA staff in checking out incidents of possible pipeline violations that are reported by volunteers into the Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative. Persons interested in becoming part of such teams in Virginia or West Virginia are asked to contact Lew Freeman at lewfreeman@gmail.com or at [703-298-8107](tel:703-298-8107). Please indicate your geographical location proximate to the route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

<p>Volunteer for ABRA's Pipeline CSI Program</p> <p><u>Volunteer</u></p>	<p>Submit a report to the Pipeline CSI</p> <p><u>Report</u></p>	<p>Stay informed, like us on Facebook.</p> 	<p>Support ABRA financially</p> <p><u>GiveNow</u></p>
---	--	---	--

New DPMC Report Unveils Virginia DEQ Shortcomings

The report released this week by the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition describes the responses from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to a series of records requests the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition filed in the last two months to discover what evidence DEQ has to support its claims that a Corps of Engineers permit will protect Virginia waters where the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and the Mountain Valley Pipeline propose to dig and blast through streams and wetlands. The report, “The Agency is Missing. . .” is available at <http://pipelineupdate.org/2018/06/07/the-science-is-missing/>.

In nearly every case, according to the report, DEQ was forced to admit it had no such records, showing that it has not applied the most basic scientific protocols to ensure these waterbody crossings can meet Virginia water quality standards. Administration officials have told the Governor, the State Water Control Board, and the public that it has conducted certain investigations and analyses. However, the results of our information requests refute those claims and show promises that Virginia is relying on science to make decisions have been empty.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Augusta urges water control board, DEQ to conduct more stream analyses

- The Recorder – 6/6/18

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Augusta-urges-SCWB-DEQ-more-stream-analyses-Recorder-20180606.pdf>

Are The Feds Cherry-Picking Data To Force Pipelines Through Vulnerable Communities?

- Pacific Standard – 6/7/18

<https://psmag.com/environment/feds-cherry-picking-data-to-force-pipelines-through-vulnerable-communities>

According to academics, attorneys, and non-governmental organizations, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission used unreliable statistical methods in its analysis of the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, masking its high cost to African-American and Native-American communities.

Compressor anxiety: Historic African American community alleges environmental racism

- CVILLE – 6/6/18

<http://www.c-ville.com/compressor-anxiety/#.Wxk6AUgvzIU>

Regarding Dominion’s underreporting of Union Hill’s population: “The more rural and less densely populated an area is, the thinner the pipe is permitted to be, and fewer shut-off valves are required...”. So the pipeline is essentially less safe in areas such as Union Hill than more populated areas.

State takes pipeline comments until June 15

- The Recorder – 6/6/18

https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/State-takes-pipeline-comments-until-June-15-Recorder_20180606.pdf

Comments related to water quality will be accepted by VA State Water Control Board until June 15, due to website downtime over the last week.

Northam Can Stop The Pipelines Right Now

- Blue Ridge Outdoors - 6/6/18

<https://www.blueridgeoutdoors.com/environment/northam-can-stop-the-pipelines-right-now/>

- Governor Northam has not only caved to corporate interests but has acted as an adversary to the state by putting the interests of a few over the needs of the entire Commonwealth.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

WV DEP suggests it might pull or change part of MVP permit

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 6/2/18

https://www.wvgazette.com/news/wv-dep-suggests-it-might-pull-or-change-part-of/article_ca073b5b-2481-51e9-8e64-bce889f8a032.html

USACE lawyers argue that the local and regional economic benefits that MVP won't produce (as the gas is meant for export, not domestic consumption) mean that WVDEP should re-write environmental regulations to accommodate 4-6 weeks of construction disturbance in major WV rivers, instead of 3 days or less.

Three Mountain Valley Pipeline protesters arrested in Monroe

- Bluefield Daily Telegraph – 6/5/18

http://www.bdtonline.com/news/three-mountain-valley-pipeline-protesters-arrested-in-monroe/article_ff06ec38-686e-11e8-8b23-3b149a7e5e83.html

Related:

- <https://www.wsls.com/news/mountain-valley-pipeline-protesters-lock-themselves-to-drilling-equipment>

Christopulos: A few questions for Mountain Valley pipeline supporters

- The Roanoke Times – 6/6/18

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/christopulos-a-few-questions-for-mountain-valley-pipeline-supporters/article_cc07fc2d-0c68-52ba-bf5f-b8217135fe55.html

Environmental watchdogs: A citizens' group monitors the Mountain Valley Pipeline

- The Roanoke Times – 6/2/18

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/franklin_county/environmental-watchdogs-a-citizens-group-monitors-the-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_a5b83f9d-f15e-5f9f-a408-799e2d900247.html

Pipeline Bombshell Part 2: Worse Than We Thought – 50 Landslides Show Mountain Valley Pipeline Contractor Is REALLY Incompetent

- Blue Virginia – 6/4/18

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/06/pipeline-bombshell-part-2-worse-than-we-thought-50-landslides-show-mountain-valley-pipeline-contractor-is-really-incompetent>

50 landslides in 55 miles...one every 1.1 miles. What does that mean for MVP? Cahas Mountain Road is an indicator.

Big Picture:

Trump, Backing Coal and Nuclear, Shuns Natural Gas

- US News & World Report – 6/7/18

<https://www.usnews.com/national-issues/energy-environment/articles/2018-06-07/trump-backing-coal-and-nuclear-shuns-natural-gas>

Administration, clinging to energy's past, undermines its stated policies and the companies and voters that elected it.

NASA chief says he changed mind about climate change because he 'read a lot

- The Hill – 6/6/18

<http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/391050-nasa-chief-on-changing-view-of-climate-change-i-heard-a-lot-of>

FERC and climate change: Where are we now?

- E&E News: Pipelines – 6/5/18

<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060083465>

Federal regulators' recent move to set limits on climate analysis for natural gas pipelines raises new questions about the government's environmental obligations and how courts might get involved.

Don't laugh, we're closer to a bipartisan solution on climate change than you realize

- The Hill – 6/5/18

<http://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/390785-dont-laugh-were-closer-to-a-bipartisan-solution-on-climate-change>

The solution most likely to find favor in both camps has to be market-based and revenue-neutral, and a fee on carbon with proceeds returned to households meets those requirements.

Virginia ruling points to bumps in the road for state's renewable mandate

- Energy News Network – 6/7/18

<https://energynews.us/2018/06/07/southeast/virginia-ruling-points-to-bumps-in-the-road-for-states-renewable-mandate/>

Observers expect state utility regulators to scrutinize wind and solar projects despite new law requiring them.

Climate Change Can Be Stopped by Turning Air Into Gasoline

- The Atlantic – 6/7/18

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/06/its-possible-to-reverse-climate-change-suggests-major-new-study/562289/>

New technology could give people a decisive new tool in the race against a warming planet, but could also unsettle the issue's delicate politics, making it all the harder for society to adapt.