



Rebecca S. Carter  
County Administrator

E. M. Wright, Jr.  
County Attorney

## Buckingham County

### Board of Supervisors

Office of the County Administrator  
13380 W. James Anderson Highway

Post Office Box 252

Buckingham, Virginia 23921-0252

Telephone 434-969-4242

Fax 434-969-1638

[www.buckinghamcountva.org](http://www.buckinghamcountva.org)

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Date: February 12, 2018

To: Members, Buckingham County Board of Supervisors

From: Rebecca S. Cobb, Zoning Administrator/Planner

Re: Floodplain Request

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) has submitted documentation detailing approximately 2 miles of pipeline installation and 1.2 miles of access roads in identified floodplain areas. As required by our ordinance they have requested a variance for construction in a Floodway District. I have reviewed their submittal which included a statement of justification for floodplain crossings, site plans and no-rise certificates. After the review, I had questions about a possible need for a Hydrology and Hydraulic Study and if any pipe and equipment would be stored in the floodplains. ACP has responded with two letters stating:

- Most access roads are already in existence, would have minimal grading and would be returned to current state
- Open trenches would be managed according to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and closed within a few days
- Pipe and equipment would be in floodplain areas for short periods but not stored long term and would be removed in the event of flood conditions

The Buckingham Floodplain Ordinance states that the Board of Supervisors shall issue a variance after it determines that granting the variance will not result in:

- 1) Unacceptable or prohibited increases in flood heights
- 2) Additional threats to public safety
- 3) Extraordinary public expenses
- 4) Will not create nuisances
- 5) Will not cause fraud or victimization of the public
- 6) Will not conflict with local laws or ordinances

The Ordinance also states that (paraphrased) the Board may refer the application to engineers or other qualified persons for technical assistance in evaluating the project.

I have not reviewed floodplain variance request before and have minimal floodplain experience. I can give an opinion on this request but given the magnitude of the project the Board may desire to seek a professional review.

What is the desire of the Board, set a public hearing for a floodplain variance or first seek a professional review?