



ABRA Update #176 – April 13, 2018

Virginia Agrees to Comment Period on ACP Stream Crossings

The adequacy of stream crossing plans in Virginia for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be the subject of a new 30-day public comment period, in accordance with a vote on April 12 by the State Water Control Board. Official language on the Board's action is not yet available, but the Department of Environmental Quality provided ABRA with the following statement:

Additional information on the public comment period and the SWCB's meeting will be available in the near future. The State Water Control Board authorized receiving written, public comments on water crossings and wetlands that are covered under the Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide 12 Permit. We are gathering the details to let people know when the comment period will be, how to access the NW 12 plans, what types of technical information will be beneficial, and how to submit comments to the Board.

For more information on this development, see the Richmond Times-Dispatch article below in In the News ("Regulatory board cracks open door").

West Virginia DEP Launches Special Pipeline Website

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) has launched an easy to use website designed to help citizens learn more about five major proposed or under construction natural gas pipelines. The five pipelines that are the focus of the webpage are the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Mountain Valley Pipeline, the Mountaineer Gas Company Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project, Mountaineer Xpress Pipeline, and the Rover Pipeline.

Available on the site is information such as detailed maps of the proposed route of pipeline routes and a link to WVDEP's searchable online database where additional information such as any inspection and enforcement action and any permit modifications can be found. Also available are public hearing transcripts, responses to comments received at public hearings, and press releases about the pipelines. The page will be updated as more information on each pipeline becomes available. Citizens will also be able to submit reports of possible permit violations via this webpage. The new site is available at <https://dep.wv.gov/pio/Pages/Major-Pipelines-In-West-Virginia.aspx>.

Keep up with new developments by visiting and liking us on [Facebook](#).

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

FERC O.K.'s ACP to Construct Contractor Storage Yards in WV and NC

Authority to commence construction of contractor storage yards in Upshur County, WV and Halifax County, NC for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) was [granted April 12 by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission](#) (FERC). The request to proceed with the storage yard construction, which had been filed by Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. on March 27, also included a request to begin construction on a storage yard in Cumberland County, NC. FERC declined at this time to authorize construction of the Cumberland facility until the company “resolves discrepancies related to the crossing method” for a waterbody at the entrance of the proposed yard.

CSI Pipeline Monitors Needed, Sign Up Now!

ABRA’s Pipeline Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI) is well underway, with volunteers signing up to participate in the massive citizen monitoring effort that will be necessary to assure that construction activity associated with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is fully in compliance with conditions of the authorizing permits and in not in violation of state or federal environmental laws and regulations. There are many ways that volunteers can participate in this important work, as [detailed on the CSI website](#). You can sign-up [here](#).

One category of CSI volunteering – stream monitoring – is demonstrated in the photos below of Reese Bull, a participant in the Trout Unlimited stream monitoring program, measuring stream quality in White Oak Draft in western Augusta County, VA. The instrument he is using is a Traceer Pocketester that measures temperature and electrical conductivity. Trout Unlimited is a cooperating partner with ABRA’s CSI program.



ACP Announces Construction Open Houses in Virginia

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline has advertised this week in local papers (see below) along the route of the pipeline a series open houses and job fairs. A similar open house was [held on Wednesday, April 11, in Buckhannon, WV](#).

Monday, April 23, 2018 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Bath County High School 464 Charger Lane Hot Springs, VA 24445
Tuesday, April 24, 2018 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Augusta Expo Event Center 277 Expo Road Fishersville, VA 22939
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	Buckingham Middle School 1184 High School Road Buckingham, VA 23921
Thursday, April 26, 2018 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.	East Suffolk Recreation Center 138 South 6th Street Suffolk, VA 23434
GENERAL INQUIRIES 844-215-1819	To learn more about construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, please visit: atlanticcoastpipeline.com
LANDOWNERS 888-895-8716	If you have any questions, please contact: ACpipeline@dominionenergy.com

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Regulatory board cracks open door for more review of pipeline projects

- Richmond Times Dispatch – 4-12-18

http://www.richmond.com/news/regulatory-board-cracks-open-door-for-more-review-of-pipeline/article_e7d42cb8-2a11-5c72-8fd7-971faea029a8.html

The board on Thursday approved a 30-day period to solicit comment on whether the approvals the corps granted for the projects under Nationwide Permit 12 are adequate to protect Virginia waterways from the blasting, drilling and trenching that crossing them could entail.

Pipelines Bombshell: Terry McAuliffe Held Secret Meetings for 18 Months or More to Negotiate \$58 Million Liability Waiver Agreement with Dominion and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Blue Virginia – 4/13/18

<https://bluevirginia.us/2018/04/pipelines-bombshell-terry-mcauliffe-held-secret-meetings-for-18-months-or-more-to-negotiate-58-million-liability-waiver-agreement-with-dominion-and-the-atlantic-coast-pipeline>

“...according to internal DEQ communications, it turns out that McAuliffe’s office was negotiating the waiver deal with Dominion as far back as June 2016...”

FERC issues notice for Atlantic Coast Pipeline construction to commence

- WV News – 4/13/18

https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/ferc-issues-notice-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline-construction-to-commence/article_oca407f4-fc78-51e1-b7eb-0946023d1424.html

The notice gives Dominion permission to commence “full construction” in areas of Upshur County and Halifax County, North Carolina.

‘Tuesday Chainsaw Massacre’: Wintergreen residents fired up about ACP damage

- Cville – 4/11/18

<http://www.c-ville.com/tuesday-chainsaw-massacre-wintergreen-residents-fired-ACP-damage/#.WtC384jwaUk>

OPINION: Why WNC should be worried about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Citizen Times – 4/6/18

<https://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/2018/04/06/opinion-why-wnc-should-worried-atlantic-coast-pipeline/491749002/>

As pipeline work begins, opponents continue fight

- The Fayetteville Observer – 4/7/18

<http://www.fayobserver.com/news/20180407/as-pipeline-work-begins-opponents-continue-fight>

Though the long-anticipated pipeline is on the verge of construction, it still has vocal opponents who have fought it since the project was announced in 2014. They don't intend to stop.

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

MVP plans to extend its natural gas pipeline into N.C.

- The Roanoke Times – 4/11/18

http://www.roanoke.com/business/news/mvp-plans-to-extend-its-natural-gas-pipeline-into-n/article_obfd8d46-1c61-5b8c-99e5-4c3a2f58b1fa.html

Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC announced Wednesday that it plans an extension of the 303-mile pipeline currently under construction, connecting with the project's end point in Pittsylvania County and heading another 70 miles south into North Carolina.

Police make arrests as protests of the Mountain Valley Pipeline intensify

- The Roanoke Times – 4/11/18

http://www.roanoke.com/news/local/police-make-arrests-as-protests-of-the-mountain-valley-pipeline/article_c9bf1b11-024b-522a-a03e-cbc2891481e9.html

Related:

- <http://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Two-arrested-following-pipeline-protests-on-Bent-Mountain--479463793.html>

Organizations to host tour on locations affected by fossil fuels

- WBOY News – 4/11/18

<http://www.wboy.com/news/lewis/organizations-to-host-tour-on-locations-affected-by-fossil-fuels/1107707031>

Several organizations in the Appalachian region will be hosting tours of areas with fossil fuel devastation.

DEQ is open to citizen pipeline monitors, director says

- The News & Advance – 4/5/18

http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/deq-is-open-to-citizen-pipeline-monitors-director-says/article_c1b134f2-42a1-5fa5-985d-4ccb2dbae2af.html

Big Picture:

FERC, Interior, EPA, DOE, Others Agree to Faster Infrastructure Permitting

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 4/9/18-

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/113970-ferc-interior-epa-doe-others-agree-to-faster-infrastructure-permitting>

Many worry the public will be cut out of the process...especially early on.

Massachusetts top court rules against Exxon in climate change probe

- Reuters – 4/13/18

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-exxon-mobil-climatechange/massachusetts-top-court-rules-against-exxon-in-climate-change-probe-idUSKBN1HK2oM>

Related:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2018/04/13/sjc-hands-maura-healey-victory-exxonmobil-climate-change-case/G4vDbI4K5qaDnpjdl063WJ/story.html>

World May Hit 2 Degrees of Warming in 10-15 Years Thanks to Fracking, Says Cornell Scientist

- DeSmog – 4/11/18

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/04/11/climate-change-two-degree-warming-fracking-natural-gas-rush-ingraffea>

The shale gas boom disrupted and slowed the adoption of renewables, especially wind power, in the late 2000s/early 2010s. Combined with increased methane leakage, it adds up to faster warming, globally.

The oceans' circulation hasn't been this sluggish in 1,000 years. That's bad news.

- The Washington Post – 4/11/18

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/11/the-oceans-circulation-hasnt-been-this-sluggish-in-1000-years-thats-bad-news/?utm_term=.13b723544ebo

The Atlantic Ocean circulation that carries warmth into the Northern Hemisphere's high latitudes is slowing down because of climate change, suggesting one of the most feared consequences is already coming to pass.

Why New Social Movements Are Different

- The American Prospect – 4/6/18

<http://prospect.org/article/why-new-social-movements-are-different>

Review of book on modern social movements is itself a worthwhile read.

Solar power eclipsed fossil fuels in new 2017 generating capacity: U.N.

- Reuters – 4/5/18

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-renewables-investment/solar-power-eclipsed-fossil-fuels-in-new-2017-generating-capacity-u-n-idUSKCN1HC1NC>