



ABRA Update #177 – April 19, 2018

We Told You So!”



The photos above were taken on Monday, April 16, in the Valley Center area of Highland County, VA, following a night of heavy rainfall. The location is where the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) would cross Back Creek Valley. Seen on the left is how Back Creek has swelled from a few yards wide in its normal flow. The flag markers for the ACP are prominently shown in the photo the right. This type of scene was no doubt replicated in dozens, if not hundreds, of other locations along the mountainous areas of the ACP route in Virginia and West Virginia. And, one can be assured that this scene will take place several times a year. Were it to occur during construction, the resulting erosion would be of disastrous proportions. Were it to occur, after the ACP trench is filled and sealed, the scar to the land left by the construction would be susceptible to landslides on the steep slopes that characterize so much of the project route. ABRA has warned of this problem since the pipeline was first proposed, and Mother Nature has verified it.

Opening Brief Filed in Challenge to VA 401 Certification

An opening brief was filed on Tuesday, April 17, in the lawsuit that several ABRA member organizations have filed challenging the December 12 decision of the Virginia State Water Control Board to conditionally approve issuing a water quality certificate (under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The suit was filed January 18 and the case is scheduled to be argued in September.

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Among the arguments set forth in the brief are that:

- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s failure to consider the combined effects of multiple areas of construction within individual watersheds is arbitrary and capricious; and
- Construction of the pipeline in areas of karst geology will impair water quality.

A copy of the brief is available [here](#).

Drone Training Session Set for April 28

ABRA and Friends of Nelson will be conducting an aerial monitoring training program on Saturday, April 28, from 12 noon to 4 pm at the Rockfish Valley Community Center, located south of Afton, VA. The program, part of ABRA’s Compliance Surveillance Initiative (CSI), will introduce volunteers to the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Banks participating in the credit facility for Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC.

Bank	Role	Amount Committed (\$M)
Bank of America	Joint Lead Arranger and Bookrunner and Lender	255
JP Morgan Chase Bank	Joint Lead Arranger and Bookrunner, Agent and Lender	255
Bank of Nova Scotia (US)	Lender	153
Barclays Bank PLC (US)	Lender	153
Branch Banking & Trust - BB&T	Lender	100
CoBank	Lender	298
Credit Suisse First Boston	Lender	153
Deutsche Bank Securities Inc	Lender	153
KeyBank	Lender	100
Mizuho Securities USA Inc	Lender	255
MUFG Union Bank	Lender	255
National Bank of Canada	Lender	153
PNC Bank	Lender	153
Royal Bank of Canada (US)	Lender	255
Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp	Lender	100
Suntrust Bank	Lender	153
TD Bank	Lender	153
Wells Fargo Bank	Lender	153
TOTAL		3,250

This information is courtesy of Oil Change International. For further information, see the article below in In the News.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Bank of America Leads Finance for Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- Oil Change International – 4/18/18
<http://priceofoil.org/2018/04/18/bank-of-america-leads-finance-for-atlantic-coast-pipeline/>
The abuses, risks and climate pollution of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have a clear set of financiers, led by the nation's largest commercial bank, Bank of America.

Highland officials need more information

- The Recorder – 4/19/18
https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Highland-officials-need-more-information-Recorder-editorial_20180419.pdf

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline threatens Virginia's economy and clean-energy jobs

- The Washington Post – 4/13/18
https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-atlantic-coast-pipeline-threatens-virginias-economy-and-clean-energy-jobs/2018/04/13/31676144-39ad-11e8-acd5-35eac230e514_story.html?utm_term=.b57edf0f2956
Cost increases from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would not only kill jobs but also stifle the kind of clean-energy growth Gov. Ralph Northam (D) and others are working hard to get moving in Virginia.

Sarah Taber: Pipeline? No, renewables will do it better

- The Fayetteville Observer – 4/14/18
<http://www.fayobserver.com/opinion/20180414/sarah-taber-pipeline-no-renewables-will-do-it-better>
The ACP is a poor fit for North Carolina's economic development.

Climate change adversely affecting Virginians' health, study says

- The Washington Post – 4/17/18
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/virginia-politics/climate-change-impact-on-human-health-showing-up-in-virginia-study-says/2018/04/17/07807d66-4187-11e8-8569-26fda6b404c7_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6f525208ee9e

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

MVP Protest Delaying Construction

- WVTF – 4/19/18
<http://wvtf.org/post/mvp-protest-delaying-construction>

Lawmakers call out treatment of pipeline protester in trees

- Associated Press – 4/18/18
<https://www.apnews.com/a88ca94884344a35a81de100bbdfb485>
A Virginia woman who has spent weeks camped in trees protesting a natural gas pipeline that would cross her property is being treated inhumanely by authorities, who have cut off her deliveries of food and water, Democratic lawmakers said Wednesday.
Related:
- <http://www.wdbj7.com/content/news/Lawmakers-speak-out-for-more-pipeline-oversight-480178833.html>

Anger over pipelines spills into General Assembly

- The Roanoke Times – 4/18/18
http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/anger-over-pipelines-spills-into-general-assembly/article_8b5fc9ba-71bd-5b5c-b082-4e4577c89e58.html
More than a dozen Democratic lawmakers asked Gov. Ralph Northam for more oversight of stream crossings and tree cutting and to protect the rights of landowners protesting the projects.

Eyes will be on big pipeline projects as they stretch out across WV

- WV Metro News – 4/15/18

<http://wvmetronews.com/2018/04/15/eyes-will-be-on-big-pipeline-projects-as-they-stretch-out-across-wv/>
Residents should be ready to make sure the pipeline developers are living up to their promises to minimize environmental consequences.

Big Picture:

As FERC Review of NatGas Pipeline Policy Nears, House Lawmakers Divided Over Priorities

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 4/18/18

<http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/114080-as-ferc-review-of-natgas-pipeline-policy-nears-house-lawmakers-divided-over-priorities>

Related:

- <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/policy/energy/ferc-kicks-off-review-of-policy-for-approving-natural-gas-pipelines>

The Energy 202: Scott Pruitt praises emissions drop but still hasn't conceded climate change is real

- The Washington Post – 4/19/18

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/04/19/the-energy-202-scott-pruitt-praises-emissions-drop-but-still-hasn-t-conceded-climate-change-is-real/5ad7b44730fbo46acf7bed15/?utm_term=.7497a1a06d58

For 15 Years, Energy Transfer Partners Pipelines Leaked an Average of Once Every 11 Days: Report

- DeSmog – 4/17/18

<https://www.desmogblog.com/2018/04/17/energy-transfer-partners-pipelines-leaked-once-every-11-days-greenpeace-report>

All told, those leaks released 3.6 million gallons of hazardous liquids, including 2.8 million gallons of crude oil, according to data collected from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). That doesn't include an additional 2.4 million gallons of "drilling fluids, sediment, and industrial waste" leaked during ETP's construction of two pipelines in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan.

Climate Change Is Making Deadly Air Pollution Worse in Cities Across the U.S.

- Time – 4/19/18

<http://time.com/5245779/climate-change-air-pollution-health/>

Temperature increases linked to climate change are worsening air pollution in communities across the country right now contributing to a range of health problems from asthma to premature death, according to a new report from the American Lung Association.

Renewable Energy Needs To Scale Up By A Factor Of Six, Reports IRENA

- CleanTechnica – 4/18/18

<https://cleantechnica.com/2018/04/18/renewable-energy-needs-to-scale-up-by-a-factor-of-six-reports-irena/>

Across the U.S., Climate Change Lawsuits Are Gaining Steam

- Sierra – 4/19/18

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/across-us-climate-change-lawsuits-are-gaining-steam>

Greens are trying to use the courts to establish accountability for the damages associated with global climate change.

Renewable energy wins over big businesses in US

- CNet.com – 4/16/18

<https://www.cnet.com/news/renewable-energy-solar-wind-lures-us-big-businesses/>

Despite the president's best efforts, Corporate America is buying into renewable energy...in a big, big way!