



ABRA Update #157 – November 21, 2017

Strong Objections Voiced at Forest Service Approval of ACP

The November 17 [decision by the U.S. Forest Service](#) to authorize the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) to cross the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests was met with strong statements of disagreement. ABRA released a statement to the media saying:

“We firmly disagree with the decision announced today by the U.S. Forest Service to allow construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline through publicly owned forest lands – valued by millions of visitors and the source of drinking water for thousands of people. We believe this decision is based on seriously deficient and incorrect information. The action imperils some of the nation’s most treasured natural resources and reflects a rush to judgment that is contrary to the standards of deliberation that we have a right to expect from the Forest Service. The decision should be strongly challenged.”

The Sierra Club issued a statement that "national forests, like our communities, deserve protection, not a roughshod review and hasty approval to be cut down for an unnecessary fossil fuel project. The Forest Service and FERC have failed to show there is a need for a new right of way for this project--or for this pipeline at all. Dirty, dangerous fracked gas pipelines like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline threaten our health, prosperity, communities and public lands. The Forest Service’s decision to rubber-stamp this fracked gas project violates the agency’s duty to steward our public lands.” Wild Virginia said that the action had “betrayed the public trust” and “would fragment forests, threaten many natural features, and damage legitimate and valuable human uses.”

Legal challenges to the issuance by the Forest Service of a Special Use Permit for the ACP are anticipated.

Transportation Available for Water is Life Rally on December 2

The December 2 “Water is Life Rally and Concert” in Richmond is fast approaching. Arrangements have been made for buses to the event, leaving from Harrisonburg, Staunton, Charlottesville, VA. Registration for free bus tickets can be made [here](#). The Rally begins at 1 pm at the Bell Tower on the State Capital grounds. Further details are on [Facebook](#).

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

WV Schedules Stormwater Hearings for ACP

Public hearings to accept comments on a draft permit to cover the discharge of stormwater during the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have been scheduled by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. The hearings will be held, as follows:

- December 18, 6-8 pm, Buckhannon Upshur H.S. 270 Bu Dr., Buckhannon, WV
- December 21, 6-8 pm, Pocahontas County H.S., 271 Warrior Way, Dunmore, WV

Oral and written comments will be accepted at the hearing. After the public hearing, the comment period will be extended until 8 p.m. on Sunday, December 31, 2017. A copy of the draft permit can be obtained by calling Sharon Mullins, Division of Water & Waste Management, (304) 926-0499, ext. 1132; or e-mail her at Sharon.A.Mullins@WV.Gov.

In the News:

Local/Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Nearly 1,000 Wintergreen Property Owners Plan To Sue the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

- New Brunswick Herald – 11/20/17
<https://nbherald.com/business/nearly-1000-wintergreen-property-owners-plan-to-sue-the-atlantic-coast-pipeline/22109>
Friends of Wintergreen and the Wintergreen Property Owners Association plan to file a legal challenge to overturn FERC's decision on the ACP.

'Outside agitators' expected in North Carolina to protest pipeline

- The News Observer – 11/17/17
<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article185220518.html>
Related:
<https://www.thedailybeast.com/police-arrest-pipeline-protesters-and-get-paid-by-the-pipelines-owner>

Outdoors foundation starts planning for Hayfields farm

- The Recorder – 11/16/17
https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/VOF_starts_planning_for_Hayfields_farm-Recorder_20171116.pdf

Pipeliners insist they won't hurt vulnerable candy fish

- The Recorder – 11/16/17
https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Pipeliners_insist_they_wont_hurt_vulnerable_candy_fish-Recorder_20171116.pdf

Regional/Mountain Valley Pipeline, other

U.S. Forest Service will allow Atlantic Coast Pipeline through two national forests

- The Daily Progress – 11/17/17
http://www.dailyprogress.com/news/local/u-s-forest-service-will-allow-atlantic-coast-pipeline-through/article_8a43ab50-cc12-11e7-a8ae-cfbed3bd304d.html
Pipeline opponents say the steep terrain and unique geography of the area the pipeline will cross — including karst terrain, characterized by springs, sinkholes and other links to groundwater — mean the project cannot be built safely.

Big Picture:

Trump Wants More Big Infrastructure Projects. The Obstacles Can Be Big, Too.

- The New York Times – 11/18/17
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/18/business/trump-wants-more-big-infrastructure-projects-the-obstacles-can-be-big-too.html>
 President Trump says he is frustrated with the slow pace of major construction projects like highways, ports and pipelines.

FERC, pipelines and climate change: Revolution in progress?

- E&E News – 11/21/17
<https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060067083>
 Courts are pushing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to get serious on understanding emissions related to pipelines.

Chatterjee: ‘We’ve Moved Past’ DOE NOPR

- RTO Insider – 11/16/17
<https://www.rtoinsider.com/ferc-neil-chatterjee-doe-nopr-80143/>

The Keystone XL Pipeline Wins a Battle, But Faces a New War

- The Atlantic – 11/20/17
<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/11/keystone-xl-finds-new-route/546353/>
 The Nebraska Public Service Commission approved the project, but said it must take an alternate route through the state.
 Related:
https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/keystone-pipeline-spill-injects-new-uncertainty-into-nebraska-decision/2017/11/19/e1d1a0e2-cb0f-11e7-b0cf-7689a9f2d84e_story.html

FERC rejects New York petition for rehearing over Millennium pipeline project, setting up court battle

- Utility Dive – 11/17/17
<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/ferc-rejects-new-york-petition-for-rehearing-over-millennium-pipeline-proje/511212/>

Battered by extreme weather, Americans are more worried about climate change

- The Guardian – 11/20/17
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/climate-consensus-97-per-cent/2017/nov/20/battered-by-extreme-weather-americans-are-more-worried-about-climate-change>
 After months of intense hurricanes, heat waves, and droughts, a survey finds a record number of Americans worried about climate change

Thawing mosses tell a climate change tale

- Science News for Students – 11/21/17
<https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/thawing-mosses-tell-climate-change-tale>
 Dating of plants suggests summer is hotter now than it’s been in at least 45,000 years

California Heads for 50% Clean Energy Production by 2020

- Energy Manager Today – 11/20/17
<https://www.energymanagertoday.com/california-50-clean-energy-production-2020-0173352/>
 Related:
<https://www.ecowatch.com/costa-rica-renewables-2511342138.html>