



Highlanders for Responsible Development
P.O. Box 685 Monterey, VA 24465 www.protecthighland.org

Newsletter

March 12, 2015, No. 8

FERC Scoping Meetings in Area Next Week

The very important scoping meetings held by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) began this week in North Carolina. They will continue next week in Virginia and West Virginia. Scheduled sessions that are closest to Highland County are:

<p>Wednesday, March 18, 2015 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Nelson County Middle School 6925 Thomas Nelson Highway Lovington, VA 22949</p>
<p>Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Stuarts Draft High School 1028 Augusta Farms Road Stuarts Draft, VA 24477</p>
<p>Monday, March 23, 2015 7:00 PM</p>	<p>Elkins High School 100 Kennedy Drive Elkins, WV 26241</p>

The scoping meetings provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to present their views on the ACP in a public forum to representatives of FERC. The FERC notice, which includes guidelines on presenting statements, accompanies this Newsletter. Written comments may also be made to FERC under the terms of the scoping notice until April 28. Instructions on how to file are provided in the notice.

HRD has written FERC requesting that an additional scoping meeting be scheduled for Monterey, given the distances Highland County residents would have to travel, as well as for an extension of the comment period because of the new alternative routes that Dominion has recently announced. A copy of our letter accompanies this Newsletter. In the event that the request for a Monterey meeting is not granted, Highland County residents concerned about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline are urged to express their opinions at one of the already scheduled scoping meetings and/or to file comments before April 28.

HRD Board to Expand Activities in 2015

The Board of Directors of Highlanders for Responsible Development held its first meeting of 2015 on March 3. While much of the meeting's attention focused upon developments related to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, there was also discussion of new initiatives that the organization hopes to pursue in 2015. In particular, plans are underway to develop a series of brochures and flyers to help inform the general public, particularly visitors to the community, about the many natural resource attributes of Highland County. More information on this new program will be forthcoming in the near future.

Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance Holds Major Planning Meeting

Fifty-nine people representing 30 groups attended an energetic organization-wide meeting of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance (ABRA) on March 7 in Staunton, VA. The day-long session produced a number of ideas of how the pipeline issue should be confronted in the months ahead and what strategies should be pursued. ABRA's Steering Committee will be reviewing notes and recommendations from the deliberations of the work groups over the next two weeks. A report with action recommendations will be sent to member organizations sent by April 1.

Highlanders for Responsible Development is a founding member of ABRA. Representing HRD at the meeting were Board members Rich Holman, Rick Lambert, Rick Webb and Lew Freeman (who also serves as Chair of ABRA), and former HRD Board member Lucile Miller.



A morning panel discussion on critical issues



Work groups met at lunch

Highlanders for Responsible Development is a citizens group that promotes stewardship of Highland County, Virginia's unspoiled landscape, natural resources and exceptional quality of life. We support policies and activities that are based upon informed community discourse, democratic decision making, prudent land use and sustainable economic development. The newsletter is issued quarterly (February, May, August and November) to provide information on issues of relevance to the citizens of Highland County. Our website – www.protecthighland.org – archives past newsletter issues and referenced documents. For questions or to make comments, write HRD@protecthighland.org.