



**Highlanders for Responsible Development**  
P.O. Box 685 Monterey, VA 24465 [www.protecthighland.org](http://www.protecthighland.org)

## Newsletter

### November 2014, No. 7

#### **Dominion Asks FERC To Begin Environmental Review Of Atlantic Coast Pipeline**

**Posted by *Staunton News-Leader*, October 31, 2014 04:01 PM**

RICHMOND – Energy provider Dominion Resources Inc. is asking federal regulators to begin its environmental review of a proposed \$5 billion pipeline that would deliver natural gas to the Southeast.

Opponents of the project in the Augusta County area expected the request to be made soon. They are planning a rally against the project Saturday that was organized before Friday's announcement.

The 550-mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline that would run through West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina is a joint venture between Dominion, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources. The corridor would include 43 miles through Augusta County.

Dominion said it took the necessary first step in the extensive Federal Energy Regulatory Commission review process on behalf of its partners Friday.

The project will need the approvals of 40 federal, state and local regulatory agencies before construction can begin.

Those in the area who oppose the project have been in touch with the federal commission for weeks and have posted more than 100 letters of concern on the agency's website, said Nancy Sorrells, one of the leaders of the Augusta County Alliance.

The alliance was formed this summer when Dominion's plans became public. "Today's action by Dominion simply moves our work into a new phase," Sorrells wrote in an email.

The Alliance plans an anti-pipeline rally from 2:30-5 p.m. Saturday in Constitution Park in Waynesboro.

Officials in a number of localities also have endorsed the project but it is finding pockets of opposition along its planned path, including Augusta and Nelson counties.

A copy of Dominion's Pre-filing letter to FERC accompanies this Update. FERC records at [http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/Doc\\_Family.asp?document\\_id=14266266](http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/Doc_Family.asp?document_id=14266266).

Now that Dominion has begun the pre-filing process, it is important that concerned citizens write the FERC to make their views known. Individual letters should be set. Form letters are not given as much weight and should be discouraged. Communications should follow the guidelines set forth by the agency: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. Those persons wishing to become "interveners" in the proceeding cannot do so during the pre-filing phase as there is no application officially before the Commission. Further details are at: <http://www.ferc.gov/help/how-to/intervene.asp>.

## **Allegheny Mountain Radio Conducts Pipeline Survey**

Allegheny Mountain Radio is conducting a survey of Highland and Pocahontas County residents regarding their views about the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. You can participate at: <http://www.alleghenymountainradio.org/atlantic-coast-pipeline-survey/>

## **Staunton City Council Adopts Anti-Pipeline Ordinance**

The Staunton City Council on October 23 adopted a resolution in opposition to the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The resolution, citing concerns about proximity to the city's water supply and strong citizen opposition, "urges FERC to withhold approval of the project, on the basis that the natural gas to be transported is not believed to be required to serve the energy needs of Virginia . . ." It asks Governor McAulliffe to "reconsider his public endorsement of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and, after consultation with the City of Staunton and other localities that would be impacted by the project and consideration of risks to the environment (including threats to karst environments and water supplies locally in the Shenandoah Valley, elsewhere in the Commonwealth of Virginia and in the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland) and the state's economy (including its agricultural and tourism sectors), oppose the project." The resolution also asks Senators Warner and Kaine and Congressman Goodlatte to publically oppose the project.

The resolution, a copy of which accompanies this newsletter, concludes by stating: "In the event Dominion Virginia Power and its partners elect to proceed with the construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and the project is approved by FERC, Council implores Dominion Virginia Power and its partners to give full consideration to the use of existing utility and highway corridors for the project, so as to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the impacts of construction, maintenance and operation of the project."