

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Multistate Groups' Legal Move Calls for Do-Over on Pipeline Impact

On Monday, January 23, 2017 Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), BREDL chapters and other environmental groups filed a motion with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to rescind and/or supplement the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) the agency released on December 30, 2016. The need for this action became clear after Dominion and its partners (including Duke Energy) in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline added thousands of pages of additional information obviously prepared before the DEIS was issued, on January 10, 2017. The motion also requests that the FERC “hold the public comment period in abeyance” until the supplemental DEIS is issued.

BREDL chapter Concern for the New Generation’s Pastor Paul Wilson, in Buckingham County, VA said, “The Union Hill/Union Grove community’s historical and cultural resources, as well as environmental justice issues, were ignored by Dominion and FERC in the DEIS released December 30th. We plan to continue to fight the proposed pipeline and compressor station. This motion to rescind the DEIS is one of the steps in that process.”

Valerie Williams a leader of Concerned Stewards of Halifax County, North Carolina, also a BREDL chapter, describes the process as “predatory exportation.” The seizure of homes and farms by the pipeline industry under the deceitful use of eminent domain is indeed a form of predatory violence against both natural and human communities.

Frank McManus, Protect Our Water, Nelson County, Virginia had this to say about the DEIS: “Protect Our Water is determined to do everything it can to hold Dominion and FERC accountable to follow all the rules in the NEPA process. We were happy to join in this motion to

rescind the DEIS because FERC can't possibly analyze data it didn't have. It is impossible to mitigate the propensity for slides on Nelson County's steep mountain slopes—putting our streams and drinking water at risk.”

"It's extraordinary that FERC and Dominion would believe it appropriate to issue a draft statement without all the data required for a thorough review of 600 plus mile high-pressure natural gas pipeline. Honestly, though, I'm not surprised. Dominion has proven over and over they are underwater in this process. Sharon Ponton BREDL Virginia organizer.

Therese Vick, BREDL North Carolina community organizer: “The DEIS was issued prematurely, with important information missing. Federal law is clear- the draft environmental impact statement must be rescinded or supplemented before any hearings go forward. The public deserves better from the FERC.”

BREDL has seven member chapters in the pathway of the proposed Atlantic Coast pipeline.

The Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League was founded in 1984. The organization has a thirty-year track record of victories over polluting facilities. www.bredl.org

Motion and supporting documents attached

#NoACP #pipelines #DominionPower #DukeEnergy

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