

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League Calls on Virginia and North Carolina Attorneys General to Aid Landowners Left in Limbo by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has requested the Attorneys General of North Carolina and Virginia intervene on behalf of landowners who were forced to bow to “bullying and predatory” tactics used to gain easements for the now cancelled Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

The ACP is a partnership between companies Dominion and Duke Energy. The pipeline company has refused to vacate all easements, even those gained from eminent domain proceedings through Federal courts. Many of the properties are owned by the families of freed slaves and are known as heir properties, and members of other environmental justice communities including members of the Lumbee Tribe.

US District Judge Terrence Boyle chastised ACP lawyers last July during a hearing when he said: “Here they are aggressively taking the bit in their teeth and running through several states grabbing land and throwing money and on a Sunday afternoon they decide, well, maybe we don't need this anymore and let's just fold up our tent. You've got tens or dozens or hundreds of easements that are conveyances by operation of law of fee title to pieces – to burdens on land throughout -- checker boarded throughout this area. That doesn't go away.”

BREDL organizers Therese Vick and Sharon Ponton, from North Carolina and Virginia, respectively, told Attorneys General Josh Stein and Mark Herring, “The threat and impacts of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline remain— hanging over communities like the proverbial sword of Damocles. We urge you to act now to protect property owners.”

Mountain Valley Pipeline-Southgate has begun issuing notices of service of process by publication: “The authority for taking is the Natural Gas Act 15 U.S.C. § 717(h) and the Certificate Order. The property is to be taken for the Pipeline, which FERC has declared a

public convenience and necessity. You may serve your answer on MVP's attorney within 21 days after being served this notice. The notice is deemed served on you upon the last date of its last publication. Failure to serve an answer will constitute consent to the taking and to the Court's authority to proceed with the action and for the compensation.”

https://greensboro.com/ads/community/announcements/legal/notice-of-service-of-process-by-publication/ad_d6b4a80a-64ad-56f9-8365-891455d997b3.html?fbclid=IwAR0XOhRZPLQX7Jgfi4OiAF7kppZ2LyNIUlvkQkCIYEVIV43ebvhg26ZAabQ

Letters to Attorneys General Stein and Herring included with this press release.

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