

Public Need and Reasonable Costs are Vital Parts of Getting Gas Pipelines Approved – and the Gas Proposed for the ACP and MVP is Neither Needed nor Reasonably Priced

Like all proposed gas pipelines, the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipelines projected to run through Virginia must be approved at both the state and federal levels. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. Forest Service must give the nod nationally, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is the state authority that decides if the project meets standards set forth in the Clean Water Act. Currently, the ACP and MVP are expected to receive FERC approval, but approvals by the Forest Service and VA DEQ are less certain. Decisions are imminent.

One of the key points on which FERC's approval hinges is whether or not they deem the gas pipeline is necessary and appropriate for meeting the public's energy needs. Duke and Dominion have failed to demonstrate these pipelines are anywhere close to being necessary or appropriate. The pipelines are more important to padding

the profits of these energy giants than for taking any financial pressure off of their customers.

CONSIDER:

- Dominion has a history of severely over-projecting electricity demand in Virginia
- Dominion already has twenty-year, long-term gas capacity contracts for two new plants via the existing Williams TransCo pipeline, meeting their foreseeable gas needs
- Ratepayers will have to pay for some or all of their construction even if the ACP and MVP are not needed
- The cost of transporting gas through the ACP will be 3 to 8 times higher than using existing pipelines, making the ACP one of the most expensive pipelines on the East Coast
- Dominion Energy is engaging in self-dealing with its own affiliates, essentially justifying the need for the pipelines by selling the gas to itself
- Both pipelines would carry fracked gas from the exact same source to the exact same region
- Dominion's own data show the ACP will cost, not save, its customers money
- Instead of transitioning to renewable energy, Dominion supports demand for gas by setting an arbitrary cap on how much solar capacity it is willing to install

No need
Dominion already has 20-year contracts to supply natural gas to its newest power plants and has no future projects that need more.

Too expensive
The ACP will cost **3-8 times** as much as existing pipelines and will be utterly redundant.

Building these unnecessary fracked gas pipelines would lock us into at least 30 years of dirtier air, generations of accelerated climate change and indefinite damage to treasured public and private property due to pipeline infrastructure. Since clean, renewable sources of energy like wind and solar are abundant and affordable right now, there is no reason to build pipelines that would keep us addicted to the dirty, dangerous fuels of the past.

If you have any questions or need more information, we are happy to help: benjamin.weiner@sierraclub.org or (804) 225-9113

