



## Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter

Dec. 30, 2014

Kimberly Bose  
Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Dominion Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Dear Ms. Bose:

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of Potomac Appalachian Trail Club to register our opposition to the proposed Dominion Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Our main concern is its potential impact on the Appalachian Trail and National Park lands on the Blue Ridge and on the Shenandoah Mountain area of the George Washington National Forest (GWNF), both of which that have outstanding scenic, ecological and recreational values.

We are concerned that the pipeline route crosses the Appalachian Trail at a site near Paul Wolfe Shelter and visible from Humpback Rocks, a popular scenic overlook on the AT and a short hike from the Blue Ridge Parkway. The section of the AT between Rockfish Gap and Humpback Rocks is very popular for hiking and is a poor location for a major pipeline.

In the George Washington National Forest, the Rt. 250 corridor is a scenic gateway to Shenandoah Mountain, which lies in the heart of the national forest and has a network of almost 200 miles of trails, including a segment of the Great Eastern Trail. A 90,000-acre Shenandoah Mountain National Scenic Area, proposed by Friends of Shenandoah Mountain, has been recommended for Congressional designation by the new GWNF management plan. PATC is a strong supporter of this proposal. For the past 30 years our chapter has frequently hiked, picnicked, camped, and maintained trails in the Shenandoah Mountain area. We recently completed a 2-year project to measure all the trails on Shenandoah Mountain to supply accurate distances for a new PATC guidebook, soon to be published. The Shenandoah Mountain area is far too unique in terms of ecology and recreation to be a suitable location for a major interstate gas transmission pipeline. In fact we can't imagine a worse place.

The pipeline will have a negative impact on:

- Scenic Rt. 250 gateway to GWNF (The GWNF Plan calls for management of this area as a Scenic Corridor. The pipeline would be on immediately adjacent land, which would ruin the scenic quality of the corridor.)

- Hiking trails in the Georgia Camp-Ramseys Draft-Braleys Pond-Dowells Draft- Hankey Mountain Area in the GWNF
- The AT between Rockfish Gap and Humpback Rocks
- The scenic Shenandoah Mountain area, which has the largest tract of mostly unfragmented national forest land in the Eastern US.
- Ramseys Draft Wilderness because it slices through the adjacent forest
- Public safety of hikers and other forest recreationists since it has a 1100' radius of potential impact (from explosions).

The 42" pipeline will require a permanent linear clearing that will create a pathway for invasive species that will degrade the ecological integrity of the area. The Braley Pond – Ramseys Draft area is of particular interest to us because of the scenic beauty and the flora and fauna found there. It draws people from the Shenandoah Valley and the whole mid-Atlantic region.

For these reasons we believe that FERC should deny approval of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Malcolm G. Cameron  
President  
5653 Beards Ford Rd.  
Mt. Crawford, VA 22841  
(540)234-6273  
malcolmgcameron@gmail.com