



STOP THE PROPOSED ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

Protect communities and ecosystems from dirty, dangerous fuels

The Sierra Club is working to stop the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). The proposed 600-mile, \$5.5 billion pipeline would transport fracked gas from the shale fields of Pennsylvania across pristine mountains in West Virginia, through forests and streams in Virginia, and impact farmland and communities in North Carolina. The Sierra Club is working with dozens of partner organizations and communities to stop the ACP.

This pipeline would cross eight North Carolina counties and more than 500 waterways in the state, posing serious threats to the predominantly low-income communities and communities of color along the route, as well as the coastal plain environment.¹ Independent studies have shown the pipeline is not needed, and will burden ratepayers for years to come.^{2,3}

Building this project would needlessly raise electricity rates for North Carolinians. We don't want to be locked into expensive, climate-changing fracked gas when cheaper, renewable energy options are available now.

THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE ENDANGERS VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

- The pipeline route disproportionately affects communities of color.⁴
- According to demographic analysis done by the North Carolina Bureau of Indian Affairs, the pipeline is routed through lands traditionally held by the Coharie, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee, and the Meherrin, as well as other tribes, and would affect a quarter of all Native Americans living in the state.⁵

- The ACP will require two compressor stations in North Carolina, which run 24-hours a day, creating noise and air pollution. One in Northampton County, where 58% of residents are African American, and one in Robeson County, where 38% of residents identify as Native American and more than 25% are African American.⁶ Air pollution from compressors has been associated with serious health problems, including cancers, respiratory and cardiovascular illness, and birth defects.^{7,8,9,10}





- High pressure gas pipelines are dangerous. More than 8,000 pipeline accidents in the U.S. over the last forty years have killed more than 500 people and caused nearly \$7 billion in property damage.¹¹

THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE WOULD HARM WATERWAYS IN NORTH CAROLINA

- The pipeline route crosses almost 2,000 waterways across three states and would threaten the Neuse and Tar Rivers, whose watersheds provide drinking water for more than 100,000 North Carolinians.¹²
- Many of the state's high quality waters, like Swift Creek and Fishing Creek, would be affected, threatening at-risk species, including native mussels like the Atlantic pigtoe, mollusks like the Carolina fatmucket & green floater, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, the red-cockaded woodpecker, migrating songbirds, and the Neuse River Waterdog, a large salamander found only in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico river basins of North Carolina.¹³

THE ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE WOULD LOCK RATEPAYERS INTO A BAD DEAL

- The pipeline would increase our dependence on fracked gas, a fossil fuel. The methane pollution released during drilling and transmission of natural gas is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂.¹⁴
- If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approves the pipeline, utilities will look to eminent domain to take landowners' properties for construction, building the pipeline on people's land without their permission, taking private property for corporate shareholder gain.

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS A BETTER INVESTMENT FOR NORTH CAROLINA

- Duke Energy and Dominion Resources have asked FERC for a **guaranteed 14 percent return** on their investment—which would benefit their stockholders through **higher electric rates for North Carolinians**.¹⁵
- If the money for the pipeline were invested in solar energy, enough capacity could be built to power 310,000 homes in North Carolina, about the entire population of Cumberland County.¹⁶

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Duke Energy and Dominion admit they can meet their power needs without this proposed pipeline. ACP would only benefit shareholders, at the expense of our communities and environment. We have to stop this build-out of gas pipelines that would lock us into increased greenhouse gases for years to come. You can help stop the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

To get more involved, go to <http://sc.org/acpipeline>.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Allpress, J., Hofmann, J., Wraight, S., Depro, B. (2017). U.S. Census Socioeconomic Data, Environmental Justice, The Atlantic Coast Pipeline: A Methods Report . Unpublished manuscript.
- 2 Economic Costs of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Key-Log Economics, LLC, February 2016
- 3 Atlantic Coast Pipeline Benefits Review, Synapse Energy Economics, LLC, Stanton, Elizabeth A. et al, June 12, 2015.
- 4 "Joint Comments of Public Interest Groups on Draft Environmental Statement." Submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Dockets CP 15-554-000 through CP 15-556-000, April 7, 2017.
- 5 Comments by the North Carolina Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Dockets CP 15-554-000 through CP 15-556-000, April 6, 2017.
- 6 Id.
- 7 Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC. (Oct 2015). Atlantic Bridge Project, Resource Report 9, Weymouth Compressor Station, Table H-1Ca.
- 8 Lee B-J, Kim B, Lee K. Air Pollution Exposure and Cardiovascular Disease. Toxicological Research. 2014;30(2):71-75. doi:10.5487/TR.2014.30.2.071
- 9 https://gaspub.epa.gov/enviro/rcrainfoquery_3.facility_information?pgm_sys_id=MAR000009993
- 10 <http://www.intertek.com/petroleum/natural-gas/trace-metals/>
- 11 "Pipelines Explained: How Safe Are America's 2.5 Million Miles of Pipeline," ProPublica. Groeger, Lena. Nov. 15, 2012
- 12 Wilson County Water Quality Report, 2015. ; Wayne County Water Quality Report, 2015; City of Goldsboro Annual Drinking Water Quality Report 2016
- 13 Letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Atlantic Coast Pipeline possible species impacts, June 2, 2016
- 14 http://www.ourenergypolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/GHG-Emissions-Associated-with-Proposed-Natural-Gas-Transmission-Lines-in-Virginia_Final-edit5-1.pdf
- 15 North Carolina Utilities Commission Comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding Dominion's requested Return on Equity, October 23, 2015
- 16 Figures based on data published by the Energy Information Agency at <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia861m/index.html> and <https://www.eia.gov/electricity/data/eia860/>.

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