

August 25, 2017

Reviewing Officer
Glen Casamassa, Associate Chief Deputy,
Forest Service – National Forest System

Re: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Decision Objection

Objectors: Daron F. Dean, Lisa M. Dean and Elizabeth Dean.
Lead Objector: Daron F. Dean

Dear Chief Deputy Casamassa,

My family and I are the owners of Elk Springs Resort located in Monterville, WV. My comments will be specific to the impact of the ACP, economically and to the water quality, that directly affects our business.

Our concern for the environment is as follows:

Damage to the Karst – The Karst provides silt free clear water at a steady temperature of 52 degrees Fahrenheit all year long. This water feeds the hatchery, lodge and restaurant. Trout eggs and fingerlings require a no silt environment and a temperature range of 45-65 degrees Fahrenheit. This is currently provided by the Karst. If damaged, the Karst will be unable to provide these current conditions and the trout will no longer be able to reproduce. This loss of revenue will be detrimental to our business and this damage will also carry the potential for contaminating our ground water for the lodge and restaurant.

Natural Springs on our Property – Before emerging at Elk Springs Resort, Slaty Fork goes underground six miles above the Resort. Any construction damages to this stream from Holley Bush, Falling Springs, and Big Springs to the Town of Slatyfork will affect our spring's water quality and the lower Elk will absorb the effects of any upstream disturbances. Please see the WVDEP October 2014 report on Dominions 2012 G-150 natural gas pipeline construction in West Virginia resulted "in the pollution of several adjacent waterways with sediment deposits." The DEP has fined Dominion for unlawful pollution and a failure to comply with regulations and best practices to ensure environmental and public safety. Dominion failed to protect the water and habitat in the path of the G-150 which is much smaller and less challenging than the challenges of the ACP.

Elk Springs Resort is located in the evacuation (melting) zone of the pipeline. Even if this pipeline is constructed perfectly, with no damage to the water table, Elk Springs Resort will experience permanent loss in property value and in tourism revenue for as long as the pipeline is active, and beyond, simply because of our inclusion in this evacuation (melting) zone. Elk Springs is located in a horseshoe area that is defined by the proposed

path of the pipeline. In the case of an emergency evacuation, all existing evacuation routes lead deeper into the melting zone. The only avenue of escape for employees and guests would be to swim the Elk River and walk away down the railroad tracks. I feel that we should be duly compensated for business losses, the decrease in our property values and be given a reduction in property taxes to its loss in value. Many agencies and entities will make huge profits from this project at the expense of others. Those sharing in these profits are the owners and shareholders of the companies that own this project. Why, with all this money, hasn't anyone suggested a fund that will compensate business and property owners for their losses? These losses will continue as long as the pipeline is operational and beyond. The proposed mitigation fund is not adequate for these circumstances. It is too generalized and not timely due to the court processes that will be involved.

This resort is so pristine and natural that it should be considered for inclusion into a State Park or Forest System. A perpetual fund should be established and funded, by all parties that will profit from this pipeline, to compensate the individuals that are adversely affected and for the devaluation of their properties. This perpetual fund, in addition to the mitigation fund, is definitely in order. Its purpose will be to compensate owners for damages with regular draws against the fund that does not require court procedures.

When the decision was made to route the ACP from its first designed route, mostly on public land, it then became the problem of private land owners and not just the Forest Service. When the Forest Service objected to the first route, because the terrain was too steep and the damage that would be done to the land was unacceptable, Dominion then proposed seven alternate routes that are in the same class of terrain, causing the same irrevocable damage, but mostly to private land. Their last option, that goes through our Resort, is even steeper and more rugged than the National Forest terrain.

In closing, if the pipeline is to be permitted, we pray that it takes the safest, least environmentally impacted route for all the citizens of West Virginia. For the unlucky land owners that will be in the path of the approved route of the pipeline, the evacuation and melting zones, they must be properly compensated for the impact of this pipeline on their lives. In the end, these individuals stand only to lose while others (the State, taxpayers, shareholders etc.) will gain. And please remember that no one else can comment on this subject more than the people whose property is being destroyed.

Sincerely,



Daron F. Dean
PO Box 29
Kenova, WV 25530
(304) 453-6196
blacktopdaron@aol.com