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Comments: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Decision Objection

Objection to the Draft Record of Decision on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline by the U.S. Forest Service.

By: Chris Bolgiano, 10375 Genoa Road, Fulks Run, VA 22830 540-896-4407
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I am a forestland owner adjacent to the George Washington National Forest and have hiked many areas of the national forest over the past 30 years to study forest ecology. I have made comments to FERC on docket CP15-554-000 during its public comment period and am therefore eligible to comment to the George Washington National Forest on its draft permit for the ACP.

Given the karst terrain and extremely steep slopes along the pipeline route thru the GW, much of which the Environmental Impact Statement blatantly ignores, I do not see how a pipeline can be buried without massive & permanent damage to the 17 perennial, 28 intermittent, and 11 ephemeral water bodies that the ACP will cross. The containment and mitigation plans that Dominion has proposes simply cannot be successfully implemented. The result will be countless water quality violations, land slides, increased stormwater runoff, erosion that fills in downstream channels, and permanent, irreversible damage to the most pristine, unfragmented fish and wildlife habitat remaining in the eastern U.S. In 2014, some 70,000 public comments to the GW national forest administration requested that fracking not be allowed in order to protect water supplies, and the revised land mgt. plan acceded to those wishes. It is now totally inappropriate and seriously harmful to allow fracking to threaten those same water supplies in the form of a pipeline to carry fracked gas that would in some ways have a larger impact than fracking itself. And it is a travesty of its own policies for the Forest Service to amend its land management plan to accommodate Dominion in the face of inevitable, foreseeable, and permanent damage to land and water resources that the public wishes to preserve in their natural state.

The only action that will represent the will of the majority of people who collectively own the George Washington National Forest, and whose overwhelming wishes are articulated in the Land Management Plan issued in Nov. 2014, is to deny this pipeline and abide by that plan.

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