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First name: Amelia

Last name: Morrison

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Atlantic Coast Pipeline Decision Objection

To Glen Cassamassa, the USFS, and whomever it may concern,

My name is Amelia Morrison, and I live in Harrisonburg, VA. I am writing to object to the Forest Service's Record of Decision concerning the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), specifically in its plans for crossing of the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests.

I strongly urge the Forest Service to issue an amended Record of Decision which denies permission for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to pass through the George Washington and Monongahela National Forests

This project poses the threat of unmitigatable damage to forest habitats in the GWNF and MNF. In addition, I'd like to outline the bases for my objections here:

1. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the ACP did not include mandatory information and was prematurely issued by FERC, diminishing my right to object. By not including that information in its Record of Decision, the ForestService is in clear violation of its duty to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.
2. The changes to amendments in the Forest Plan to accommodate for the ACP differ from earlier in the process. This is new information not included in the FEIS documents, and the public had no opportunity to comment.
3. Cumulative effects: There is no sufficient cumulative analysis for the ACP, rendering the Record of Decision incomplete.
4. The US Fish & Wildlife Service did NOT come to a conclusion on the safety and effects of the ACP, making the Record of Decision premature. This is a critical analysis for the habitats of endangered and threatened species.
5. The DEIS for the ACP contained no sufficient analysis of the cycle impact from source to use; the cumulative effect on climate change has not been completed. This is required of FERC by the EPA. Its absence in the ACP DEIS makes the document incomplete and prematurely issued.
6. In addition, Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC did not include information in the DEIS on several route variations, information accounting for construction areas on route - these are among many pages of documentation that the public did not get to comment on, thereby making the FS Record of Decision premature.
7. Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC has not answered questions from the USFS concerning "High Hazard Areas." Permit applicant cannot prove how they will prevent landslides and in these areas with mountain slopes of over 50%. These issues will be especially dangerous in our national forests, where potentially deadly pipeline leaks or explosions could occur in extremely remote and areas with difficult terrain, difficult to reach by first responders.

I live downstream from headwaters of drinking water sources in these areas, which contain extremely sensitive karst terrain. Waterways will be buried. Drinking water for residents both within and outside the National Forest lands will likely be disturbed or ruined. This is not acceptable to be permitted by the USFS by any degree. What is the purpose of having an agency exist for the protection of these areas - some of them among the most biodiverse in the country - if that agency allows industry to eradicate them?

In conclusion, it is crucial for the sake of our mountains, drinking water, and forest habitats that the USFS change its record of decision to deny permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This is a project with extreme and unaccounted-for risks, and the safety of our George Washington and Monongahela National Forests cannot - I repeat, CANNOT - be guaranteed. Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC has not fulfilled its responsibilities as an applicant for said permit, and has not demonstrated that they can construct their pipeline safely while accounting for our protected lands.

Please consider my comments, and thank you for taking the time to document them.

Sincerely,

Amelia Morrison
(503 Snowberry Lane, Harrisonburg VA
281-630-8340