

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/5/2017 11:00:00 AM

First name: William F. & Lynn S.

Last name: Limpert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: comments Regarding Draft Approval For the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

United States Forest Service

Attn: Glen Cassamassa

September 5, 2017

Dear Mr. Cassamassa:

We are opposed to the USFS draft decision allowing the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) to cross our George Washington and Monongahela National Forests for the following reasons.

- The draft environmental impact statement issued by FERC for this project was written without necessary information that was later submitted. I was not allowed to comment on that material in FERC's flawed public participation process.
- The final environmental impact statement issued by FERC does not fully take into account the pipeline's impacts on climate change. In fact, FERC used an outdated 2014 Department of Energy (DOE) study of methane emissions from natural gas facilities, and ignored an updated study using better methodology by the same author at DOE in 2016 that found double the methane emissions compared to the earlier study. We mentioned this in comments to FERC on the DEIS, and FERC still used the old study in the FEIS.
- The ACP has not answered USFS questions regarding high hazard areas.
- The US Fish and wildlife Service did not reach a conclusion on the safety of the ACP. The pipeline is a serious safety threat.
- The ACP is not needed. Energy use in Virginia and North Carolina has dropped in the past decade, and is expected to remain flat at least through 2030 per the US Energy Information Administration. Existing underutilized pipelines could carry more gas to the same areas than the ACP.
- The ACP would introduce and encourage invasive species spread into our National Forest.
- The ACP would fragment large blocks of current contiguous forest.
- The ACP would pollute local waters, alter stream channels, and increase flooding.
- The project would add greenhouse gases to our atmosphere for decades, and significantly exacerbate climate change, mankind's biggest threat.

Increased temperatures will cause a very fast change in forest tree species with trees at the southern end of their current range rapidly dying off and trees currently in warmer, more southern areas rapidly moving in. There will be a chaotic period of transition with great mortality, leaving most forests with large areas of dying trees, standing dead trees, or fallen dead trees. The deadwood will increase the chances of devastating forest fires that could damage or kill the remaining live trees. This will be even more pronounced in regions that have become drier due

to climate change.

Along with the chaotic change to forest trees there will be a corresponding chaotic change in species composition. Species will quickly die off while others move in, and the equilibrium that these systems have had since at least the last ice age will be gone. Infestations will go hand in hand with extinctions.

Changes in precipitation patterns will abruptly change the forest vegetation and species composition as well, compounding the temperature change impacts. Increased storm severity, already apparent and expected to get much worse could actually flatten many of our forests.

All of the benefits that mankind accrues from our now abundant forests could be lost through climate change. Our timber, our wildlife, our clean water, our clean air, our topsoil production, our oxygen production, our recreation, and the beauty of our forests could be lost.

We can't let this happen. We need to just say no to unnecessary and extremely harmful projects like the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and others, that would doom our future. We need to allow our natural world to sustain us as it has for millennia, and not destroy it out of short term greed.

Please reject the Atlantic Coast Pipeline from all areas of our National Forests.

Thanks again for the opportunity to comment on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, and thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

William F. Limpert and Lynn S. Limpert

wflimpert@gmail.com

250 Fern Gully Lane

Warm Springs, VA 24484

540-839-3202

4102B Garfield Road

Smithsburg, MD 21783

301-416-0571