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First name: Brent
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Public Comment on ACP Permit

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

My name is Brent Finnegan, and I live in Harrisonburg, Virginia. 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 National Forest. I grew up fishing in Linville Creek and visiting Rockingham County swimming holes. Hunters, hikers, anglers, farmers, and activists all know that a stable climate, clean water, and clean air are vital for us now, and for future generations.

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.

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. 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 George Washington National Forest, where potentially deadly pipeline leaks or explosions could occur in extremely remote and areas with difficult terrain, difficult to reach by first responders.

In short, there has not been a comprehensive review of stream and wetland crossings for ACP. I live downstream from headwaters of drinking water sources in these areas, which contain extremely porous 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?

I urge you to deny the permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline because you cannot guarantee safety. Atlantic Coast Pipeline LLC has not fulfilled its responsibilities as an applicant for the 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,

Brent Finnegan

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