

TALKING POINTS TO HELP WRITE YOUR COMMENTS ON NC ACP 401 PERMIT

Erosion, Sedimentation, and Turbidity

Construction of the proposed project in NC would disturb over 930 acres of wind-erodible soils, 39 of water-erodible soils, over 900 acres of hydric soils as well as 1,740 acres of prime farmland. The ACP would clear a 150 foot wide corridor along the length of the pipeline route during construction with a few exceptions in wetlands. Additionally, the project would convert a significant amount of forested land to herbaceous cover in the 75-foot wide permanent right-of-way, including highly erodible soils. Impacts would include “local modifications of aquatic habitat involving sedimentation, increased turbidity, and decreased dissolved oxygen.”

Those impacts would harm aquatic organisms that rely on the affected streams for their survival. FERC’s earlier conclusion that “constructing and operating the ACP would not significantly impact fisheries and aquatic resources” is unjustified for several reasons: Regulators lack adequate information to determine the impacts associated with the use of the wet open-cut crossing method at rivers and streams crossed by the ACP. Second, there is no evidence that Best Management Practices would successfully minimize sedimentation impacts, and past experience with similar projects in erodible soils demonstrates that they are highly likely to be inadequate. Finally, this conclusion doesn’t account for the increased sedimentation that would result from conversion of mature forest to herbaceous cover in permanent right-of-ways.

In NC, the ACP would cross 8 source water protection watersheds, 3 of which are in Zones of Critical Concern. NC DEQ must not only require the ACP construction to minimize impacts, but to avoid crossings near these areas, to protect downstream drinking water.

Water needed by the ACP for hydrostatic testing and dust control must be closely quantified, and locations of withdrawals and discharge must be identified. NC DEQ must require procedures for minimizing impacts of withdrawal for these purposes, flow changes and sediment on source and downstream waters.

In addition to Environmental Inspectors hired by ACP, there would be third party inspectors, accountable only to FERC, to review compliance and prevent accidents or failures. Those inspectors must report directly to the Commission, and inspection results must be available to the public. Inspectors must have the authority to stop work if violations are detected during construction.

End your comments by asking the NC Division of Water Resources to deny the 401 permit for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The deadline for comments is August 19th at 5:00 pm.

Email your comments to publiccomments@ncdenr.gov (include “ACP” in subject line).

Or, mail your comments to 401 Permitting, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699