

# The Unneeded Atlantic Coast Pipeline

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is a proposed highly pressurized natural gas pipeline planned to go through WV, VA & 8 eastern NC counties. The pipeline would enter NC in Northampton County, where a large compressor station would be built, and end in Robeson County, near Pembroke, with a likely extension to Hamlet. The pipeline would be nearly 600 miles long, and the cost of the project would be over \$5.5 billion, to be paid for by utility customers!

## Where is the pipeline in the process of approvals?

After major hearings in July on the critical 401 Water Quality Certification required from each state for the pipeline, DEQ demanded more information from ACP on their detailed plans to protect water, as well as cumulative impacts of the project. DEQ has now asked ACP LLC a FOURTH time for more information, this time on the cumulative impacts of the pipeline. If NC DEQ decides to deny the permit, ACP LLC has been notified that construction would not be authorized in NC. The pipeline would cross numerous vulnerable wetlands, as well as surface waters in eastern NC, including: the Chowan River Basin, Roanoke River, Tar-Pamlico River, Neuse River, Cape Fear River, and Northern Lumber River Basin. DEQ has also disapproved the Sedimentation and Erosion Control plan submitted by the ACP.

The two other states impacted by the ACP are also reluctant to certify that the project would protect their water quality. West VA has rescinded its previous 401 certification for the ACP, and VA will not hold public hearings until December. Meantime, ACP owners are complaining that they will not be able to start tree clearing to be ready for construction, so the project will again fall



*The proposed route of the ACP in NC goes through Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland and Robeson Counties*

## FERC Approved ACP Oct. 13—Worried about Lost Support and Momentum?

On October 13th, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued a long statement approving the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (and the Mountain Valley Pipeline), not mentioning the fact that all three states along the route of the ACP have NOT approved the critical section 401 Clean Water Act permits! The Certificate was issued with 73 conditions, ranging from documented communications with Tribal groups to completing groundwater studies, but NONE of them would be clearly enforceable if construction is allowed to go forward!

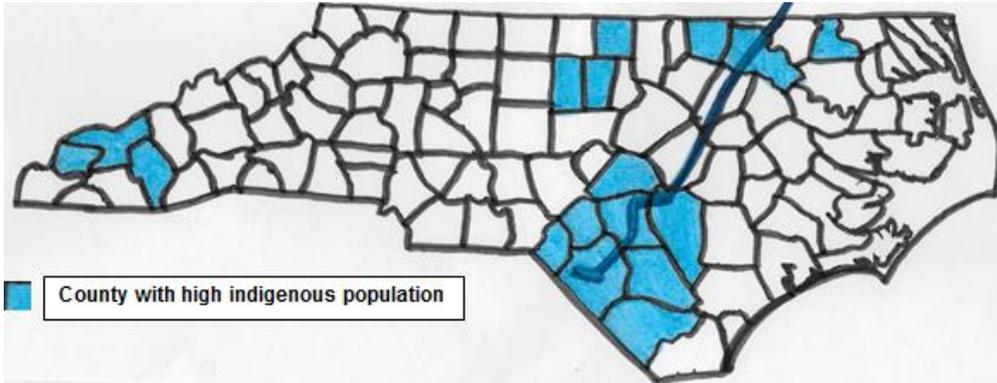
Commissioner Cheryl LaFleur, past chairman and longest serving FERC commissioner, issued a strong dissent to this decision, expressing great concern about the extensive environmental damage the ACP would cause, the inadequate assessment of need and the failure to consider less damaging alternatives. Many groups in NC, VA and WV will be challenging this decision and monitoring state agencies actions.

**ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE:** Sign up for the Pipeline and Frackupdate to stay in the loop about recent regulatory decisions, write to Governor Cooper and DEQ staff to inform them of your reasons for being against this project, attend the Northampton County Public Hearing on the proposed compressor station (more info on back).

# Atlantic Coast Pipeline Impacts on American Indian People

The proposed pipeline will directly affect the traditional lands of several tribes in Virginia and North Carolina, including the Monacan, Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Nansemond, Nottoway, and Occaneechi in Virginia, and the **Haliwa-Saponi**, **Meherrin**, **Tuscarora**, **Coharie**, and **Lumbee** in North Carolina.

This pipeline threatens sacred sites of the Monacan Tribe in VA and the Tuscarora and Waccamaw peoples of NC. Other undocumented sacred sites are also being threatened. The terminus is in Robeson County NC, home of the densest populations of American Indians on the east coast. Impacts include: damage to wetlands where some native people still gather medicinal plants, taking of ancestral lands passed down through generations and impacts to rivers that are culturally significant.



*Counties shaded blue have American Indian percentage populations higher than the state average of 1.2%.*

*The dark blue line indicates the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.*

## Blast Zone Report

There are 24 identified High Consequence Areas (HCAs) in the NC section of the proposed ACP. These are areas where the extent of damage to property or the chances of serious injury or death are significant in case of a rupture or significant leak. HCA's have 20 or more occupied buildings or vulnerable populations (handicapped, etc) within the blast zone radius of the pipeline. Clean Water for NC's report "High Consequence Areas, Blast Zones and Public Safety Along the ACP" is available at [www.cwfnc.org](http://www.cwfnc.org).

The Blast Zone or Incineration Zone, is the distance at which there is a reasonable risk of incineration, injury or even death. For a 36 inch pipeline operating at 1400 pounds per square inch, this zone extends at least 943 feet, or 43% greater than the 660 foot radius used by Dominion to identify HCAs!



### **San Bruno explosion, 2010**

Initial blast had a wall of fire over 1,000 feet high. 8 people were killed.

## For more information

**Clean Water for NC**

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