

Remarks to FERC March 18 2015

My name is Connie Brennan. I am here as a private citizen, but am also a member of the Nelson County Board of Supervisors.

I just want to remind you that the Board of Supervisors has passed two resolutions opposing the construction and operation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline in Nelson County.

I have a question for you to consider, and to consider how you will explain the answer to your children and grandchildren.

Are you seriously considering granting a permit at some point to a private for-profit corporation to transect our precious and beautiful county with a 42 in, high pressure unnecessary pipeline full of natural gas and god knows what else now or in the future, that will have tremendous, long-lasting negative impacts and provides absolutely nothing positive to our homeland here, one of the most beautiful places in Virginia if not the country?

One that will mar forever two mountain ranges, one of them the nationally treasured Blue Ridge Mountains, the second oldest, may I repeat, second oldest mountain range on earth? Zippering across them and the Appalachian Trail, destinations for millions of people who come here to enjoy their beauty and recreational offerings? Then trashing through the Rockfish Valley, now known far and wide as the Napa Valley of the East Coast, with its many vineyards, orchards, wineries, breweries, a cidery and a distillery, which underlie our agritourism-based economy? Not to even mention passing through our proposed new Historic District. Then bulldozing through some of the East Coast's largest non-fragmented forest land and criss-crossing the Rockfish River a few times? Continuing to deface the culturally and historically important land owned by descendants of freed slaves with graveyards and cemeteries everywhere? And continuing down and devastating nationally treasured areas along the James River, including a wealth of known Native American archeological sites and estates that date back to the beginnings of our country? And to top it off, crossing the James River next to a seismic fault? Seriously?

Dominion has selected the absolute worst possible site for this pipeline, regardless of which route through the County they propose. A responsible route using existing rights of ways, easements, utility corridors, and/or co-locating with other pipelines or infrastructure is the only imaginable, ethical answer.

I have not even mentioned that you consider how you and your family can imagine living next to or within an 1100-foot blast zone.

Our local government is mandated by the Virginia Code to protect the health, safety and welfare of our residents. We will fight to do this for our children and grandchildren, just as you would do for yours.

Thank you.