

PF15-6

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline, as originally proposed, travels down the Rockfish Valley. Where it crosses the Rockfish River in front of Shannon Farm Community where I and 79 others live is of particular concern as this 28,450 acre watershed is where four streams (the North Fork of the Rockfish River, Taylor Creek, Perry Creek and Meriweather Creek) join together and the site of where frequent flooding occurs. Our county is subject to the **Orographic lifting phenomenon** as tropical moisture tends to stall on the east side of the Blue Ridge. Because of this we have been subject to large quantities of rainfall in relatively short periods of time. In 1969, Hurricane Camille washed away at this exact crossing, the Route 635 bridge and dumped 2 feet of rain in an 8 hour period.

Since then I have personally witnessed numerous periods of intense rainfall and flooding at this confluence which has changed the river's course, de-stabilized its banks and destroyed the asphalt road bed as well as has swept cars, rock boulders and entire trees down the river. My concern is that future floods with high velocity water could expose the pipeline and after which subsequent debris could rupture it, potentially setting off an explosion. Because of the parallel configuration of Rt. 635, the Rockfish River and our only access road, such a catastrophic event could prevent my neighbors and I from evacuating and first responders from reaching our community. Given this risk we believe that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would affect our property values, our insurance rates and potentially endanger our lives. I urge the Commission to consider a safer alternative route, not located in a dangerous floodway.

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Rockfish River Floodway of 28,450 acre watershed



Looking northwest from Shannon driveway across river and Rt. 635 April 2011

