



*Protecting the heritage, resources and economy of the Allegheny-Blue Ridge region*

## **Guidelines for Testifying at FERC Scoping Meetings**

**May 13, 2016**

### **Background**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will conduct scoping hearings on May 20 in Marlinton, WV (Marlinton Community Wellness Center, 320 9th Street, 10 am to 7 pm) and May 21 in Hot Springs, VA (Bath County High School, 464 Charger Lane, 10 am to 7 pm). The purpose of the hearings is to receive comments on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts from the new alternative route and proposed modifications of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, known as GWNF-6. Speakers can deliver their remarks in the order in which they sign up, appearing any time during the day. There is no pre-registration. Verbal comments will be delivered directly to a court reporter. FERC staff will be available to assist speakers and answer questions. Each speaker is asked to limit their remarks to 5 minutes.

### **What to say and how to say it**

1. It is advisable for speakers to work from a written script and to provide a copy of that script to the court reporter to assist him or her in transcribing the comments.
2. A 5-minute commentary, delivered at a measured pace, is 700-800 words, about 3-pages of double-spaced text.
3. A suggested structure for presentations:
  - a. Opening paragraph – explain who you are, where you live and your general position on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, with specific attention to the GWNF-6 alternative.
  - b. Describe the 3-5 most important concerns you have about the GWNF-6 that shape your position. Your points should be personal, describing how the pipeline would affect your property, livelihood and community. Citing specific examples or statistics will strengthen your arguments.
  - c. As a closing point, speakers are urged to request that FERC conduct a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the ACP and the other pending pipeline projects that are pending before the agency that affect the larger Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance. A good discussion on this is at <http://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SELCLetter-to-Forest-Service-on-a-Comprehensive-Regional-EIS-9-17-15.pdf>.
  - d. The closing paragraph of your remarks should briefly summarize your arguments and thank FERC for the opportunity to present your views.

Additional written comments should be filed with FERC by June 2 (the current scoping comment deadline): <https://ferconline.ferc.gov/QuickComment.aspx> or to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. All comments should reference the ACP Docket Number: CP15-554-000 and the GWNF-6 alternative.

If you have further questions, call Lew Freeman at 540-468-2769 or 703-298-8107 (c), or email [lewfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:lewfreeman@gmail.com). After the meeting, please email a copy of your presentation and any observations you have about the scoping session to Lew Freeman at [lewfreeman@gmail.com](mailto:lewfreeman@gmail.com).