



For Planning Purposes and Immediate Release

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****MEDIA ADVISORY****

Nelson County Community Public Hearing On the Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Date: Wednesday, February 22, 6-9 p.m.

Location: Nelson County Middle School, 6925 Thomas Nelson Hwy, Lovingston, VA 22949

Local citizen groups will hold a Community Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 22 from 6-9 p.m. at the Nelson County Middle School. The hearing will be held concurrently with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's "Listening Session" on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is conducting public listening sessions in Virginia regarding the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) at different locations throughout the state. The Nelson County FERC session begins at 6:30 p.m. at the adjacent Nelson County High School.

Concerned citizens will be gathering in the Nelson County Middle School library at the same time as the FERC meeting, to provide a welcome environment for the public to share information and show opposition to the ACP.

FERC has refused to hold true Public Hearings on the proposed ACP, instead holding "Listening Sessions" where citizens sit in a closed room with a scribe and speak their 3 minutes of comments in secrecy.

“The FERC process makes a mockery of the concept of a Public Hearing,” said Ernie Reed, President of Friends of Nelson. “FERC has also cut the time for public comment in half in Nelson County, severely limiting the time available for citizens to make their comments. This is despite the fact that opposition to the pipeline is strongest and the destructive impacts most significant here in Nelson County.”

“The alternate community hearing is intended to highlight the continuing lack of transparency and public disclosure by the FERC during the environmental review process,” said Kirk Bowers of the Sierra Club. “The community meeting will provide an open forum for the community to prepare comments on the proposed pipeline for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.”

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a proposed \$6 billion, 42”, high-compression pipeline that would carry fracked natural gas from West Virginia, across Virginia to North Carolina and the Tidewater area, causing environmental and economic damage to communities and private properties that it does not serve. Polls confirm that a majority of Virginians doesn’t want it, and gubernatorial candidates from both the Republican and Democratic parties have come out strongly against it.

A press conference with local citizens opposing the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be held at **6:10 p.m.** at the Nelson County Middle School library. We encourage the press to attend and interview participants at that time.