

Friends of Nelson Fact Sheet

Friends of Nelson is a group of Nelson County residents, property owners and community allies, now incorporated and committed to protecting Nelson County from the long term damages of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

Atlantic Coast Pipeline

The ACP, a natural gas pipeline jointly proposed by Dominion Resources and three other east coast utility companies, would run 550 miles from the shale fields of West Virginia to Virginia's coast and southern North Carolina. This 42-inch, high-pressure pipeline, and its permanent 75-foot clearcut easement, would cross 35 miles of Nelson County.

Property Rights

Because of a 2004 Amendment to the Virginia Code, natural gas companies take the position that they may survey private property without the consent of the owner. An easement may be granted through eminent domain with the landowner being left with restricted use of that easement. Conservation easements are no guarantee against eminent domain.

Property Values

Impacted landowners would likely see a decrease in their property values due to the permanent restricted use of the easement. Pipeline easements could also complicate and limit loan and mortgage options. At a minimum, real estate sales would be disrupted with the visual damage of a 125-foot-wide clearcut construction easement and surface occupancy of industrial infrastructure and equipment.

Local Economy

Nelson County's robust, low-impact economy is based on Tourism and Agribusiness and relies on the historic farms, breathtaking scenery, clean water and quiet back roads in our rural community. The ACP would significantly compromise the natural beauty and tranquility of Nelson County, and thus could hurt existing businesses and limit future investment.

Environment

A permanent 75-foot clearcut scar across the heart of Nelson County would divide and fragment forest and wildlife habitat. The pipeline would be blasted through mountain and rock, and would cross numerous watersheds, rivers, streams, springs, wetlands and riparian areas. Sediment, erosion, and leakage are potential and permanent threats to water and air quality.

Jobs

The ACP would create few short-term and no long-term jobs in Nelson County. Surveying, blasting, excavating and constructing of pipelines is done by experienced journeymen professionals, not local workers.

Energy Economics

None of the natural gas that would flow through the ACP is targeted for use in Nelson County. Much of it is slated for North Carolina and future export to other countries. Increasing the supply of natural gas increases dependence on fossil fuels and creates obstacles for residential and commercial use of alternative technologies. Investment in conservation, solar and off-shore wind is wiser than increasing pipeline infrastructure.

Please join Friends of Nelson in becoming informed and engaged in this effort.