



# North Carolinians Must Stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

## About the ACP Proposal

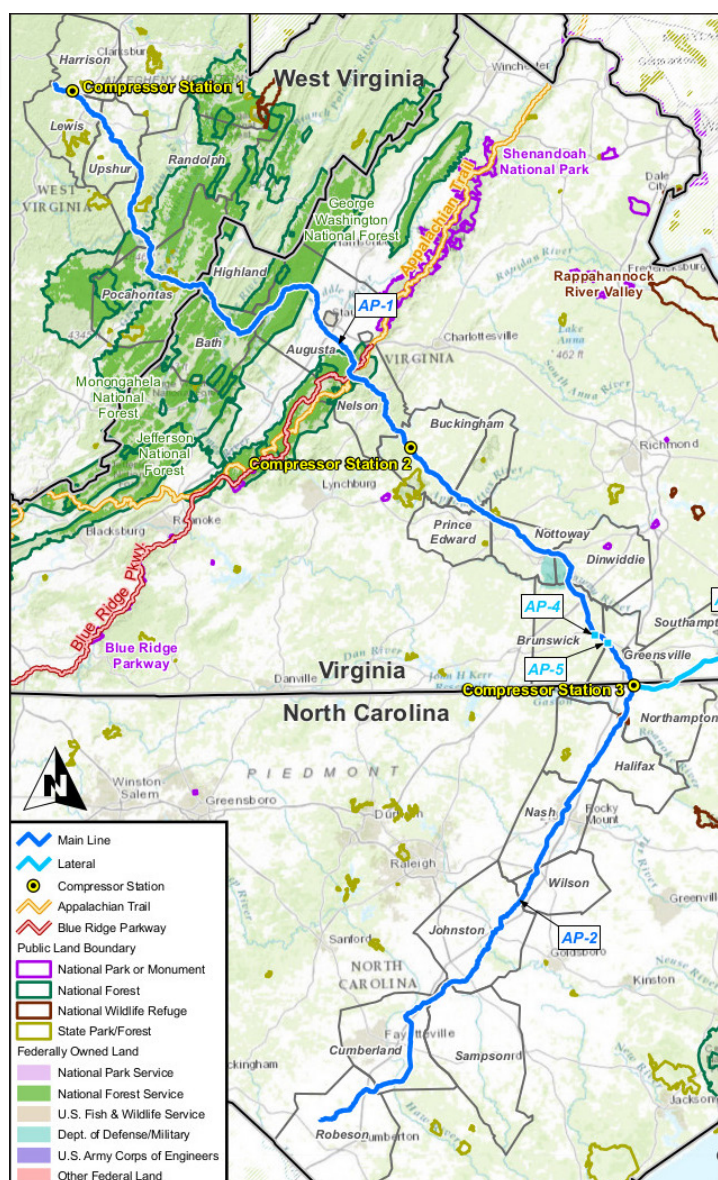
The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a project proposed by Duke Energy and Dominion Resources that would bring “natural” gas to North Carolina from controversial fracking wells. This is also called shale gas.

If built, it would be 600 miles long, one of the largest US pipelines. The initial estimated cost is \$5.1 billion, which would be paid by electricity and natural gas customers, probably through higher fuel prices.

The proposed route starts at fracking sites in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio, cuts through Virginia and ends in Robeson County, NC.

In North Carolina, the pipeline would primarily supply fuel for electric power plants owned by Duke Energy, but might also be used by natural gas customers along the route, depending on supply.

The project was announced in September 2014. Construction has been delayed six months, but the owners hope to gain federal approval by early 2017, and complete construction by late 2018.<sup>1</sup>



Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) route.

# The ACP's Many Harms to North Carolina

## A Hazard for Health and Safety

Gas pipelines leak, sometimes slowly, sometimes through blowouts that harm neighbors and property. Compressor stations along the route leak – and by design, they constantly release gas into the air, increasing the risk of explosions. Residents near compressor stations have suffered nosebleeds, nausea, rashes and headaches due to spikes in releases.<sup>2</sup> The ACP would cause more fracking in communities near drilling sites that are already suffering water and air contamination.<sup>3</sup>

## Disastrous for Our Climate

North Carolina is already being harmed by increased heat waves, crop damage, sea level rise, stronger storms and more. Scientists warn that global warming is a crisis that must be tackled immediately. The growing use of fracked gas is making the climate crisis worse due to the leakage and intentional venting of “natural” gas – which is mostly methane – from drilling sites all the way to power plants. Methane is 86-100 times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, the pollutant created by burning coal, oil and gas.<sup>4</sup>

## A Financial Risk for All

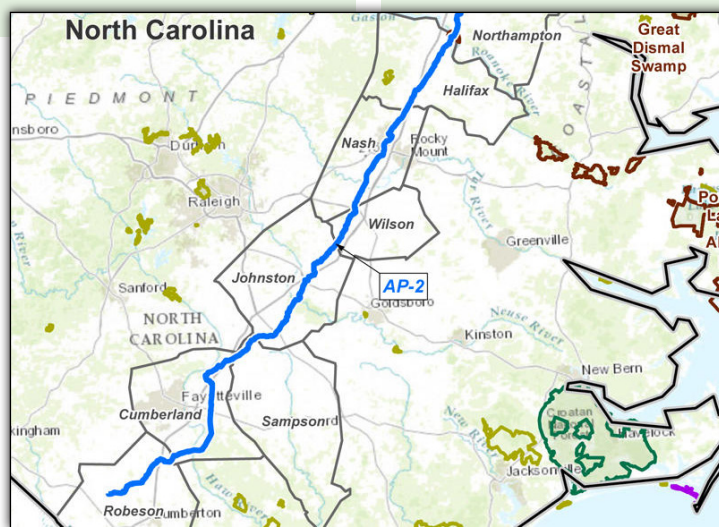
Fracked gas is not a reliable source of fuel and the price will surely rise. Many of the US shale gas wells are in decline, yet the fracking industry and their captive federal regulators continue to overstate the amount of gas underground. Some industry leaders also warn that too many pipelines are being planned for the amount of gas still underground.<sup>5</sup> All this creates the likelihood of shortages, power outages and rate hikes for all Duke and Dominion customers.<sup>6</sup>

## False Promises of Economic Development

In communities along the proposed route, the ACP is promoted as a driver of new business and jobs. But the falling shale gas supply and high future prices make this a risky promise. New jobs or development won't survive if the ACP becomes underused due to low supply or high prices.

## Abuse of Property Rights

If the ACP is approved, landowners would be forced to allow the pipeline to be buried on their property through “eminent domain.” This would restrict owners' use of their property and lower its value.



## Rivers and Forests

The ACP would cross the Blue Ridge Mountains, forests, rivers and streams. With such a large construction project, our waters and forests would be harmed.

## Can the ACP be stopped?

### Absolutely – if people work together.

It's already been delayed by our neighbors in Virginia. Other pipelines are being defeated. And many fracking gas corporations are going bankrupt. We must get organized, and share the news that the ACP – and Duke Energy's fracking future – would be bad for all North Carolinians.

Thanks to our allies for sharing information to create this fact sheet:

Augusta County Alliance, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition and Frack-Free NC.



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## Citations

<sup>1</sup>“Atlantic Coast Pipeline Revised, Could Open Late 2018,” WFAE, May 12, 2016: <http://wfae.org/post/atlantic-coast-pipeline-revised-could-open-late-2018>

<sup>2</sup> Direct Testimony of Touche Howard filed by NC WARN, The Climate Times and The NC Housing Coalition in North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-2 Sub 1095, June 10, 2016: <http://www.ncwarn.org/wp-content/uploads/HOWARD-Testimony.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Hydraulic Fracturing: How Great Is the Risk to Health?, Physicians for Social Responsibility Environmental Health Policy Institute: <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/environmental-health-policy-institute/hydraulic-fracking.html>

<sup>4</sup> Affidavit of Dr. Robert W. Howarth, Position and Comments of NC WARN and The Climate Times filed in North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-2 Sub 1089, February 12, 2016: <http://www.ncwarn.org/wp-content/uploads/NC-WARN-The-Climate-Times-Position-and-Comments-and-Exhibits-A-C.pdf>

<sup>5</sup>“Marcellus/Utica on Pace for Pipeline Overbuild, Says Brazier,” Natural Gas Intelligence, June 8, 2016: <http://www.naturalgasintel.com/articles/106695-marcellusutica-on-pace-for-pipeline-overbuild-says-brazier>

<sup>6</sup> Affidavit of David Hughes, Position and Comments of NC WARN and The Climate Times filed in North Carolina Utilities Commission Docket E-2 Sub 1089, February 12, 2016: <http://www.ncwarn.org/wp-content/uploads/NC-WARN-The-Climate-Times-Position-and-Comments-and-Exhibits-A-C.pdf>