



# North Carolinians Must Help Stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

## About the ACP Proposal

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

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

If built, it would be 600 miles long and 42 inches in diameter, one of the largest US pipelines. The ACP would cost North Carolinians \$20 billion in just the first 20 years, largely due to ongoing cost overruns, which would cause electricity and natural gas prices to rise for all customers.

Duke Energy and Dominion Energy have played a cruel hoax on the eight NC counties along the proposed route by promising natural gas for new industry while planning to use nearly all of it for Duke Energy’s own power plants.

The project was announced in 2014. Construction began in 2018 but has been stalled by multiple legal challenges, corner-cutting by Duke and Dominion, and growing public resistance.



Proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) route.

For a detailed version of this fact sheet with citations, please go to: [ncwarn.org/pipeline-facts](http://ncwarn.org/pipeline-facts)



# The ACP's Many Harms to North Carolina & the Global Climate

## An Environmental Injustice

In May 2018, NC WARN and allies filed a civil rights complaint with the Environmental Protection Agency alleging that state agencies cheated communities along the proposed pipeline route when they issued permits for pipeline construction. The agencies relied on a flawed federal analysis that masked large disproportionate impacts on communities of color, particularly Native American and African-American communities, as well as low-income populations.

Compounding the failure to perform a rigorous environmental justice analysis, regulators refused formal consultation with tribal governments along the route.

## 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. All this creates the likelihood of shortages, power outages and rate hikes for all Duke and Dominion customers. Meanwhile, the cost of clean alternatives is plummeting.

## Abuse of Property Rights

If the ACP is built, 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.

## Disastrous for Our Climate

North Carolina is already being harmed by increased heat waves, crop damage, sea level rise, stronger storms, severe coastal and inland flooding and more. Scientists warn that global warming is a crisis and that the growing use of fracked gas is making it worse.

That is because of 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.

## A Hazard for Health and Safety

Methane is also a precursor to ozone, which causes air quality issues. When those health costs are counted, the societal cost of methane is 50 times that of carbon dioxide. Not only that, but gas pipelines leak, sometimes through blowouts that harm neighbors and property. Compressor stations along the route leak and intentionally vent gas into the air, increasing the risk of explosions. Residents near compressor stations have suffered nosebleeds, nausea, rashes and headaches. The ACP would cause more fracking in communities near drilling sites that are already suffering water and air contamination.

## Rivers and Forests

The ACP would cross the Blue Ridge Mountains, forests, and hundreds of 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 legal challenges and protests. Other pipelines are being defeated. And 172 fracking gas corporations have gone bankrupt since 2015. We must spread the news that the ACP – and Duke Energy's fracked gas future – would be bad for all North Carolinians.

Get involved! Call 919-416-5077 or email [ncwarn@ncwarn.org](mailto:ncwarn@ncwarn.org). Learn more at [ncwarn.org/ACP](http://ncwarn.org/ACP).

*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.*



**Building People Power for Climate & Energy Justice**

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