



Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Supporting Organized Voices and Empowered Communities Since 1987

P.O. Box 6753 Huntington, WV 25773-6753

Ph. 304-522-0246 Fax 304-522-4079

info@ohvec.org

MOUNTAINEER XPRESS PIPELINE INFORMATION SHEET

1. 165 miles in length
2. 36" pipe [24" in Doddridge] [the Sissonville pipeline was 20"]
3. Cost \$2 billion
4. 3 new compressor stations: Calhoun, Doddridge, Jackson; modifications to 3 existing stations and 1 regulating station
5. Affect 14 WV counties: Marshall, Wetzel, Tyler, Doddridge, Ritchie, Calhoun, Wirt, Roane, Jackson, Mason, Putnam, Cabell
6. Replacing 2 sections of existing 30" pipeline in Cabell; the new line will connect to old "SM-80 & "SM-80 loop" pipeline in Cabell & Wayne Counties prior to terminating at the point of multiple connecting lines and a compressor station in Ceredo; Columbia officials have been unable to answer questions about how old this existing line is.
7. Project will go under I-64 between Hurricane and Milton exits; will go under the Kanawha River at Midway [over/under railroad there?] HDD [Horizontal Directional Drilling] will be used for construction under the river.
8. Part of the FERC process is the requirement that "alternatives to the proposed action" be presented, including that of "No Action". Has FERC seriously considered this option?
9. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this pipeline is out and available at your public library or at the OVEC office, or upon request from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). There is a public comment period until April 24th; this will be the last public comment period on this project. FERC final decision on project due Summer (late July) 2017
10. FERC has only ever denied one pipeline project proposal
11. Project originally planned to begin construction fall 2017
12. MXP claims to provide jobs "during the project" (meaning temporary and possibly out of state workers)
13. MXP claims to provide increased county property tax revenues
14. Landowners along route will be contacted by Columbia Pipeline Group
15. Landowners have the right to wait until the FERC approval process is completed. You should not be told otherwise.
16. Construction right-of-way is 125-foot; Typical easement granted by property owners will be 50-foot wide [supplemented by additional 25 feet wide during construction]
17. FERC is charged with issuing a "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" which then allows the companies involved to declare eminent domain.

18. Columbia is currently working on the \$1.75 billion Leach XPress project, which would send gas from Marshall County via a southwestern route across Ohio to a compressor station in Ceredo, WV, while it proposed this additional pipeline.
19. “According to Columbia, its project would enable infrastructure-constrained natural gas supplies to reach waiting markets served by Columbia’s system.” [This quote is from FERC’s “Notice of Intent to Prepare an {EIS} Environmental Impact Statement” and does not specify whether these markets are in the United States or in other countries] There will be staging areas and some construction roads.
20. On July 7, 2015, a pipeline construction accident fouled the public water system at Peterstown, WV. Service was disrupted for 2 ½ weeks.
21. Important Questions: Will they use fly ash as backfill? Will eminent domain result in a “taking” of property for some local residents? Do changes to topography increase chance of flooding? What will the air quality near pipelines be like? What about public safety? Are contingency/evacuation plans being constructed with practice drills and resident notifications? What will be the impacts on groundwater/wells? Impacts on small streams and tributaries? Maintenance impacts? Cumulative effects? Indirect effects, such as more shale drilling? Will this project decrease property values? What about a land or homeowner’s ability to acquire and maintain insurance? Who pays for damages and clean-up when something goes wrong? Grade of pipe? [sometimes lower grade used in rural areas] Invasive species? What percentage of jobs will be local? Union? Homeowner insurance rates rise with presence of pipeline?
22. The Big Picture: On December 14, 2014, federal guidelines of the CEQ [Council on Environmental Quality] instructed that federal agencies should consider Climate Change. “This guidance explains that agencies should consider both the potential effects of a proposed action on climate change, as indicated by its estimated greenhouse gas emissions, and the implications of climate change for the environmental effects of a proposed action.”
23. There is controversy over whether natural gas is a “cleaner” fuel than coal, due to methane emissions and water quality problems common at extraction and waste disposal sites.
24. Most groups struggling with pipelines elsewhere recommend documenting present conditions. Take photos. Get your well water tested before construction starts. Make water surveys. [Trout Unlimited, WV Rivers, WV Highlands and OVEC are partnering to do stream monitoring in the area.]
25. If approached by corporate representatives about leasing your property rights or granting access, think carefully about this and what the potential disruption to your family will mean. We recommend talking with a qualified lawyer whom you trust prior to signing any agreement. Do not allow yourself to be rushed into signing an agreement.
26. Here is one lawyer we recommend: Ben Lockett, with APALMAD: blockett@appalmad.org
27. Here is an independent water testing lab that we would recommend if you can afford to get your own well water tested: jjames@downstreamstrategies.com

For more information or a copy of OVEC’s comments on the FERC DEIS, please contact Robin Blakeman: robin@ohvec.org and watch the OVEC website, blogs or events (posted on the website and FaceBook) for more details and upcoming meetings.