



Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Supporting Organized Voices and Empowered Communities Since 1987

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Fact-Sheet: Proposed Appalachian Storage Hub

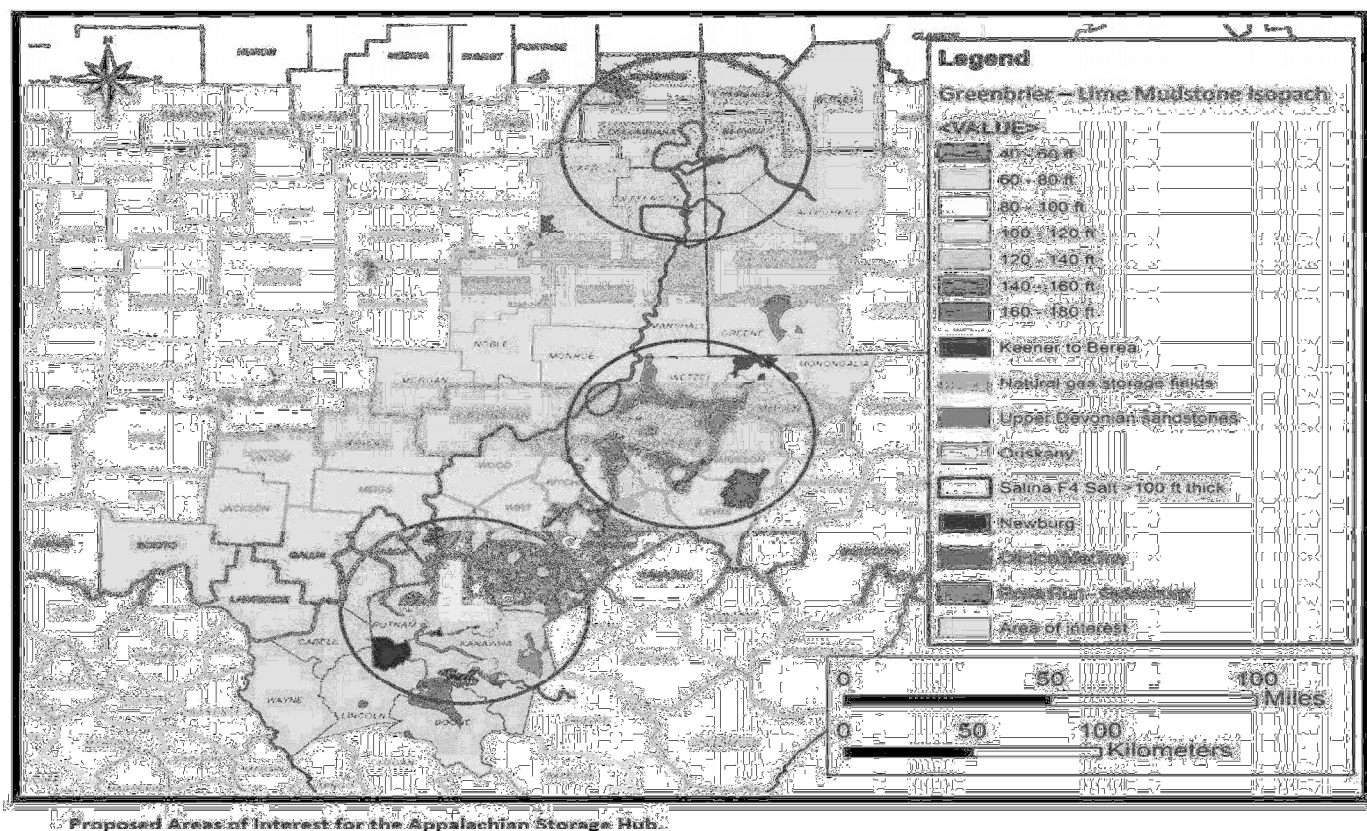
Definition: The Appalachian Storage Hub (ASH), also known as the Appalachian Ethane Storage Hub, is a proposed mega-infrastructure project which could greatly expand unconventional oil and gas drilling (fracking) in our state and region. If built, this petrochemical complex would include five or more cracker plants and regulating stations. Various natural (fracked) gas liquids would be stored in underground storage facilities and transported via up to 15 possible pipelines. The petrochemical complex would roughly follow the course of the Upper and Lower Ohio River Valleys. Currently, it is uncertain whether most of the infrastructure would be located on the Ohio side or the West Virginia side of the river. It would cost billions of dollars to construct.

Concerns:

- Air and water pollution at cracker plants, and other parts of the infrastructure.
- Massive water extraction and pollution at cracker/processing plants.
- Natural gas liquids are highly volatile, more so than dry gas (methane)
- Uncertainty about regulations for natural gas liquid pipelines.
- Increased gas fracking in our state and region, exacerbating climate change; we should be expanding renewable energy and alternatives to polluting plastic instead.
- Tax payer dollars are already being tapped for a study of this proposed project.
- Leaks from underground storage caverns could lead to sinkholes, water contamination or explosions.
- This project would lead to increased petrochemical industrialization of Ohio River Valley. The experience of people in Cancer Alley of the Gulf Coast region informs us that the grave health risks outweigh the economic benefits.
- Risk of contamination of water intakes for the three to five million people who depend upon the Ohio River as their sole source of tap water.
- Many communities in the Ohio River Valley region are already economically challenged; many people in these communities can't afford to move or have poisoned water and increased health problems from air or water contamination.
- The Ohio River is already known as the most polluted inland waterway in the country.

Size and Area of Impact:

Initial industry reports have described this project as extending from Beaver, PA along the Ohio River to Huntington, WV/Catlettsburg, KY, with a spur extending from Pt. Pleasant, WV into Kanawha County, WV.



Source: Appalachian Oil and Natural Gas Research Consortium report "A GEOLOGIC STUDY TO DETERMINE THE POTENTIAL TO CREATE AN APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB FOR NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS"

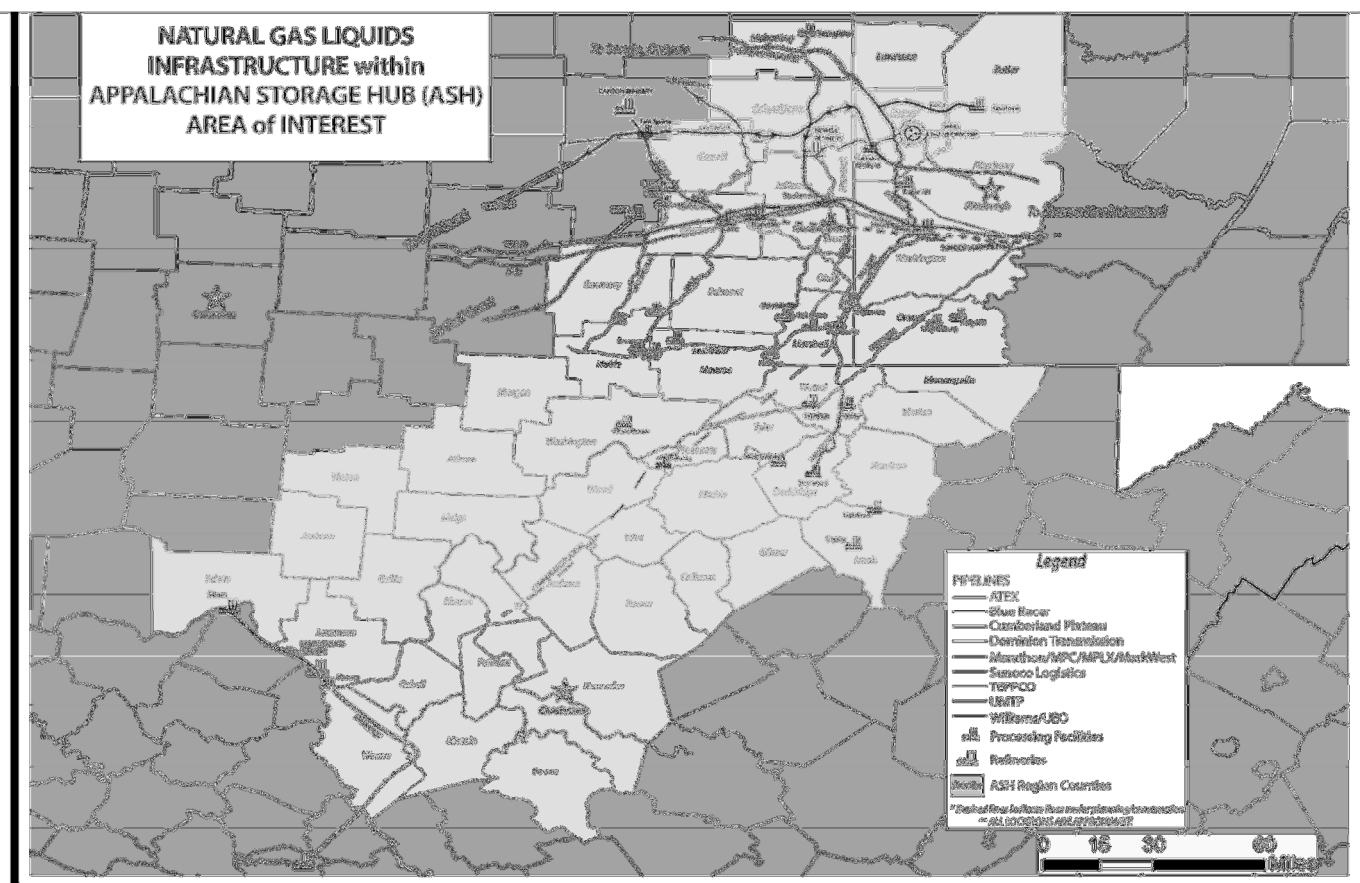


Figure 4-26. Natural gas liquids infrastructure (existing and planned) within the AOI. All locations are approximate.