

July 24, 2017

Michael S. Regan, Secretary
NC Division of Water Resources
217 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

RECEIVED
Office of the Secretary

JUL 27 2017

Department of Environmental Quality

Dear Secretary Regan:

I am certain you and/or your Department has received many letters voicing concern about the Atlantic Coast Pipeline coming through the 8 counties Down East. My letter is one you can add to the stack.

My concern is this: Why would they choose to come thru the counties with the highest population of African American, Native American and just plain ole "people of color"? Why would they choose counties with populations where the education level of those who live in these counties is majority high school diploma with few advanced degrees? Why would they choose the poorest counties that have a lower average income than other counties in our state? I will tell you why, "they believe our voices do not matter". Prove them wrong.

This is not right. The residents in these eight counties, i.e., Northampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland and Robeson Counties do not want the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Those that do want it (mostly the business community) only see dollar signs and what the pipeline can do for them.

I have enclosed a copy of an article from today's Rocky Mount Telegram where residents attended a public hearing in Nash County. Mind you, many of the residents were also from neighboring counties.

Please, do the right thing. If this pipeline were applying to go thru Wake or Mecklenburg Counties, I feel they (the Atlantic Coast Pipeline people) would see a different outcome.

The only way we can fight back is to voice our deepest concerns. We worry about the safety of the pipeline, as they are susceptible to leaks. Then there is the biggest threat...that of groundwater contamination. Yes, we worry about the health of our communities, and our children...Remember the Sioux Tribe? Why is it that the communities that are poor in education, salaries, etc., are the ones selected for a pipeline to run through?

I respectfully ask your Division to please deny the 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Authorization for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

Respectfully submitted,



Gwendolyn Wilkins
632 Amos Street
Rocky Mount, NC 27803
252-883-4184

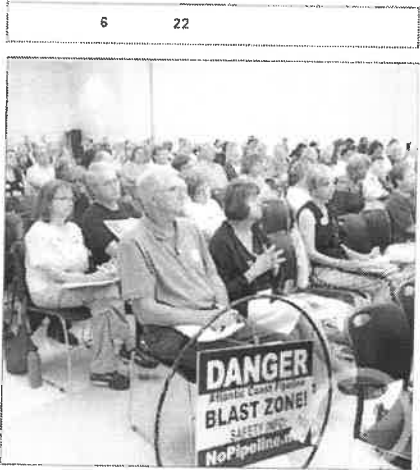
Opponents pan impacts of proposed gas pipeline

By COREY DAVIS
Staff Writer

Friday, July 21, 2017

A thong of people mostly opposed to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline packed the Brown Auditorium on Thursday at Nash Community College.

Several people wore clothing and held up signs that showed their strong opposition to the 42-inch gas pipeline, which will run about 600 miles starting in Harrison County, W.Va., and running through Eastern North Carolina, including Nash County. The public hearing at NCC was dealing with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's looking to receive assurance of a "401 Water Quality Certificate."



People attend a public hearing on the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline on Thursday at Nash Community College.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline has applied to the N.C. Division of Water Resources for a 401 Water Quality Certification and Buffer Authorization for its plan to construct one compressor station and install 186 miles of transmission pipeline and accessories in Northhampton, Halifax, Nash, Wilson, Johnston, Sampson, Cumberland and Robeson counties. The Division of Water Resources must take final action on the application before Sept. 18.

Comment

More Stories

- 2 dead, 500 hurt as deadly quake rattles...
- Nigeria: Bombed refugee center wasn't...
- Winning numbers drawn in 'Pick 4 Day'...
- Winning numbers drawn in 'Pick 3 Day'...
- NC Lottery

The state certificate is a requirement for the proposed \$5 billion project to get approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. More than 60 people signed up to give their opinion on the pipeline. Wilson resident Barbara Exum, who was among a small group who held a press conference earlier in the day, was the first speaker to talk against the pipeline and requested that the Division of Water Resources deny the permit.

Exum said her family farm is in the direct path of the proposed pipeline and expressed how the pipeline will impact the black and brown communities. Reports from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League said one of the counties impacted by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline would be Northhampton County, with a population that is 58 percent African-American and has a much lower average income than the state as a whole.

Northampton resident Belinda Joyner said her county is being used as a sacrificial area for industry. She added it's no accident that the huge compressor station to push the natural gas for another 180-plus miles through North Carolina would be built in Northampton County and could cause future health problems for citizens.

"Independent studies show that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline sees us as poor, uneducated and not able to fight back," Exum said. "They see our lives as low risks to their business practices."

Tom Betts, a former chairman of the Carolinas Gateway Partnership, was one of the few people in the audience who stood up and supported the pipeline. Betts was received with a mixture of cheers and boos from the people in attendance.

"We do have poor and undeserved communities in our areas, but what we need more than anything is jobs," Betts said. "The Twin Counties is an area that is quite fortunate because we have many tools for economic development. But the one thing we're missing is the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, which will provide the natural gas supply that will encourage every user of this clean and efficient fuel to locate in our area. Also, it will provide a substantial source of revenue, which will form taxes that will assist funding like education and public safety."

Nothing, especially a natural gas supply, is going to encourage people to move here. I doubt when someone moves, natural gas will be in their decision-making process.

Who is it providing revenue to? Surely not the poor people who will suffer because of the pipeline.

From Today

Bowman to replace Earnhardt Jr.



Videos to promote lineman program



Opponents pan impacts of proposed



Greeks connect to spiritual roots at

