Opportunity to Object to the Draft Decision regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project for the Monongahela National Forest and the George Washington National Forest

The USDA Forest Service (FS) has released a draft Record of Decision (ROD) to: (a) authorize Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) to use and occupy National Forest System (NFS) land to construct, operate, maintain and eventually decommission 21 miles of an interstate natural gas pipeline on the Monongahela National Forest (MNF) and George Washington National Forest (GWNF); and (b) approve project-specific amendments to the MNF and GWNF Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMPs) to modify four MNF LRMP standards and ten GWNF LRMP standards that would be needed to implement the project. The draft ROD is based on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) Project and Supply Header Project prepared by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FEIS discloses the effects of constructing the full 605 miles of the pipeline, which includes constructing the 42-inch diameter pipeline across 5.1 miles on the MNF in Pocahontas County, West Virginia, and 15.9 miles on the GWNF in Highland, Bath and Augusta Counties, Virginia. The con-
struction phase of the project on NFS lands would impact about 430 acres, including the pipeline construction right-of-way, additional temporary workspaces, and access roads. The FERC’s FEIS can be found at https://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp (under Documents & Filings, Elibrary, General Search, Docket Number: CP15-554).

Following the FERC’s posting of the FEIS on its website, the Forest Service will post its draft ROD on-line at www.fs.usda.gov and www.fs.usda.gov/8. For more information about ACP on the GWNF, go to: https://www.fs.usda.gov/gwj; e-mail: kovercash@fs.fed.us or regular mail: Karen Overcash, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, VA 24019; telephone: (540) 265-5100. For more information about ACP on the MNF, internet web site: https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf; email: karenlestevens@fs.fed.us or regular mail: Karen Stevens, Monongahela National Forest, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241; telephone (304) 636-1800.

How to Object and Timeframe
The FS draft ROD is subject to the FS pre-decision objection process pursuant to the provisions found at 36 CFR Part 219. A. Objections to the FS draft decision to authorize use and occupancy for the ACP and the LRMP amendments must be filed within 45 calendar days from the publication date of the legal notice of the opportunity to object in The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel and Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which are the newspapers of record for decisions made by the Eastern Region and Southern Region Regional Foresters. Should the publication date differ between these two newspapers, the latter date will be used to start the objection period. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity during a public comment period, unless based on new information arising after designated comment opportunities, §218.8(c).

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector’s responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer.

At a minimum, an objection must include the following:
- The name, address, and if possible, the position or membership of the objector;
- The reason or reasons for the objection; and
- A statement of the significance of the issue and the position of the objector.
By filing a written objection with the reviewing officer. At a minimum, an objection must include the following:
- The name, address, and if possible, a telephone number of the objector;
- Provide a signature or other verification of authorship (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);
- Identify the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection;
- Provide the name of the project being objected to, the name and title of the responsible official, and the name of the National Forest(s) and/or ranger district on which the project is located;
- A statement of the issues and/or the aspects of the project to which the objection applies;
- If applicable, a statement explaining how the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies; and supporting reasons and evidence.
A statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment.
Written objections, including attachments, must be filed with Reviewing Officer Glen Casamassa, Associate Deputy Chief. Objections may be submitted by Email to objections-chief@fs.fed.us. They may be mailed to Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Attn: Administrative Reviews, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Mailstop #1104 Washington, DC 20250.
Send requests via UPS and FedEx to U.S. Forest Service, Attn: Administrative Reviews (EMC/2nd Floor Central), 201 14th Street SW, Washington DC 20250. Hand-delivered objections will also be accepted at the address used for UPS and FedEx between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, exclusive of Federal holidays. Objections may also be submitted by fax to (202) 205-1012.
Objections filed electronically must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc, .docx). Please state "Atlantic Coast Pipeline Decision Object" in the subject line when providing objections electronically or on the envelope when submitting by mail. Objections received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who object, will be available for public inspection during and after the objection process.
RUN: July 21 WNASLP