THE ATLANTIC COAST & MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINES
Atlantic Coast Pipeline

• About 600 miles of new, 42 inch diameter pipe extending from West Virginia to North Carolina
• Cost of over $5 billion.
• The U.S. Forest Service disapproved prior route over Cheat and Shenandoah Mountains in the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests.
• In March 2016, the proponents proposed a new route—one that will cross 10 to 11 conservation easements.
• SELC, representing multiple conservation groups, opposed a request for expedited processing in April 2016, and filed a motion asking FERC to reject the alternative route last week.
• FERC will issue a draft EIS in December 2016.
Mountain Valley Pipeline

• 301 mile, 42 inch pipeline extending from Wetzel County, West Virginia, to Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

• FERC issued a draft EIS September 2016 with public comments due December 22, 2016.
  – 30% of route crosses topography with slopes > 15%
  – Would disturb 4,180 acres with potential for severe erosion
  – Would pass through 51 miles of karst terrain
  – Would cross 986 waterbodies (377 perennial)
The CEQ’s National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations compel an evaluation of need.

“The statement shall briefly specify the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action.”

40 C.F.R. § 1502.13 (emphasis added)
New and Converted Natural Gas Units at Existing Coal-Fired Power Plants with Proposed and Existing Pipelines and Natural Gas Basins
There are serious questions as to whether the ACP and MVP are needed.

DOE Study, Feb. 2015:
“Higher utilization of existing interstate natural gas pipeline infrastructure will reduce the need for new pipelines.”

Synapse Study – commissioned by SELC and Appalachian Mountain Advocates:
Using assumptions for lower-than-expected use of renewable energy, and greater than anticipated conversions of coal-fired power plants to gas-fired, the ACP and MVP not needed to meet year 2030 peak hour demands for gas.
ACP & MVP ARE NOT NECESSARY TO MEET NATURAL GAS DEMANDS NOW OR IN THE FUTURE

Winter peak-hour gas usage

MMcf

- Natural gas demand, high gas use
- Natural gas demand, low gas use

COLUMBIA PIPELINE UPGRADE (WB XPRESS PROJECT)

TRANSOC REVERSAL

EXISTING NATURAL GAS CAPACITY AS OF 2015

2015  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  2030
Available at: http://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/pipelines/EIA-StatetoStateCapacity.xls.
Environmental Impacts