

Dominion Resources 42" Pipeline Fact Sheet



42" Pipeline, Nebraska



Shavers Fork, West Virginia

Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources have joined to propose the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, a 550 mile wide, 42" diameter fracked gas pipeline from Harrison County, West Virginia to Lumberton North Carolina, Dominion has proposed a rough map (see <https://www.dom.com/business/gas-transmission/atlantic-coast-pipeline/index.jsp>), but the exact route is not finalized and depends on future surveys. A leg to the coast of Virginia has raised speculation that they plan to export gas, but Dominion denies it.

Construction Issues

Dominion has never constructed a 42" pipeline, and there appears to be no precedent for a pipeline of this size across steep forested terrain like the Alleghenies. It would go straight up and down mountainsides which range from 3400 to 4700 feet in West Virginia and from 3000 feet to 4200 feet in Virginia. Some elevation changes from valley floor to mountain top would exceed 2000 feet.

Waterways

The pipeline will cross numerous watersheds, rivers, streams, springs, wetlands and riparian areas. Stream crossing is one of the most significant impacts of pipeline construction. Small streams are diverted during construction. Drilling under the stream requires space beside the stream for the drilling operation and the right kind of stream bed. For many or most of the larger streams that would be crossed in mountainous terrain, it's likely that the pipeline crossing will be achieved through direct excavation and possibly blasting of the stream-bed.

Major streams crossed

Hackers Creek
Buckhannon River
Tygart Valley River
Shavers Fork of the Cheat
West Fork of Greenbrier
East Fork of Greenbrier
Plus numerous trout streams

Eminent Domain and FERC Process. Dominion must file an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for approval of an interstate gas pipeline. FERC will conduct a review that includes holding stakeholder meetings, receiving public comments, and preparation of an environmental impact statement. If FERC approves the pipeline, Dominion may go to federal court and use eminent domain to acquire rights of way that landowners are unwilling to grant.

Landowner Rights

In West Virginia you can exclude anyone from your property by posting, fencing or telling them to get off, unless they have a deed, lease, right of way or some other interest that would include the right to conduct surveys. This right must be backed by a legal document. If the surveyor cannot produce a document, you can tell them to leave, and that is that.

Energy Economics

Industrial infrastructure like a huge pipeline commits us to increased dependence on fracking for gas, which is a fossil fuel, and creates huge obstacles to investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Property values

Landowners may see a decrease in property values due to the restricted use of land on the easement as well as the visual impacts of a 75 to 125 foot wide clear-cut.

Some other results from the proximity of a gas pipeline may be: inability to sell, inability to get a mortgage, potential calling in of the mortgage because the owner allowed industrial development and the dangers of fire and explosion (this clause is in almost every mortgage agreement).

Special Attractions

in or near the pipeline corridor:
Gaudineer Knob Scenic Area
Camp Allegheny Battlefield
Cheat Summit Fort
Salamander Run Scenic Railroad
Durbin Rocket Scenic Railroad
New Tygart Flyer Scenic Railroad
West Fork Rail Trail
Lake Buffalo

Environmental Impacts

The pipeline would cross both the Monongahela National Forest and the George Washington National Forest in areas where there are ongoing restoration projects for trout and red spruce. A 100-foot clearcut across the Alleghenies will divide and fragment forest and wildlife habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species and create favorable conditions for invasive species.

Greenbrier River Watershed Association
greenbrier.org

WV Highlands Conservancy
wvhighlands.org
