



File Code: 1900; 2700
Date: September 1, 2016

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St., N.E., Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Ms. Bose:

Subject: Preliminary Comments Concerning Crossings of Proposed Streams and
Recommendation for Continued Consultation
OEP/DG2E/Gas 4
Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 and CP15-554-001

The Forest Service provides preliminary comments on the most recent shapefile (labeled Revision 11a) containing the GWNF 6 route and associated variations and modifications proposed by Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACP) for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project (ACP Project). We have conducted a precursory review of the proposed Revision 11a and have concerns about streams that would be crossed by the proposed pipeline and access roads on the George Washington National Forest.

The Forest Service is highly concerned about potential project impacts to Laurel Run in Bath County, a wild brook trout stream, from the proposed crossings of the stream by the pipeline and the access road that would be built along an existing but non-passable trail. The location of the proposed access road is unacceptable because it parallels the stream channel within the riparian corridor for much of its length and has numerous stream crossings. As a result, the proposed access road is inconsistent with Forest Plan standards and best management practices (BMPs) relating to soil and water. The Forest Service is also concerned about several streams that would be crossed by the proposed pipeline and proposed access roads on NFS lands in Augusta County. Specifically, an unnamed tributary of Calfpasture River (at Dowells Draft), near milepost 117, and the two unnamed tributaries to Jennings Branch (at White Oak Draft) between mile posts 120 and 121, are wild brook trout streams. Forest Service will further analyze these crossings to determine consistency with Forest Plan standards and BMPs.

The Forest Service requests that ACP re-evaluate its proposed stream crossings and proposed locations of access roads, while considering Forest Plan standards and BMPs relating to soil and water. Consultation with Forest Service staff is strongly encouraged.



Forest Service staff will complete a more thorough review of the entire proposed GWNF 6 route as well as any route variations, modifications, and other alternatives affecting National Forest System lands on the Monongahela National Forest and the George Washington National Forest. Additional comments will be provided upon the completion of the review.

For questions, please contact Jennifer Adams, Special Project Coordinator, by phone at (540) 265-5114 or by email at jenniferpadams@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



CLYDE THOMPSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC