



File Code: 1900; 2700
Date: April 4, 2017

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

Dear Ms. Bose:

Subject: Forest Service's Review of the Primary and Contingency Proposal for Crossing the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway OEP/DG2E/Gas 4 Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Docket No. CP15-554-000 and CP15-554-001

The Forest Service provides comments on the primary and contingency proposals submitted by Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (ACP) for the crossing of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST) and Blue Ridge Parkway (BRP) by the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project (ACP Project). ACP proposes horizontal directional drilling (HDD) as the primary method and direct pipe installation (DPI) as the contingency method for the ANST-BRP crossing.

The Forest Service has reviewed successive versions of ACP's proposal for HDD and DPI, filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on May 13, August 1, and August 4, 2016, as well as the HDD design report filed with FERC on January 10, 2017. ACP's filings contain sufficient information to assess the feasibility of the proposals. Based on the Forest Service's review, the HDD would be feasible at the proposed location and the DPI would be a feasible contingency option. The Forest Service has no further questions or requests for information regarding the HDD and DPI methods for the ANST-BRP crossing.

The Forest Service had informed ACP, by letter dated January 19, 2016 and filed with FERC on January 21, 2016, that any special use permit (SUP) issued to ACP may be conditioned to require the successful completion of the HDD prior to constructing any other spreads on National Forest System (NFS) lands, given that detailed proposals had not been submitted as of the date of the January 2016 letter. Because ACP subsequently filed adequate documentation for the Forest Service to assess the feasibility of the primary and contingency proposals, and based on our independent assessment that the proposals are feasible, such a condition in the SUP would no longer be necessary. Thus, the Forest Service would not prohibit concurrent construction at other spreads on NFS lands before the completion of the ANST-BRP crossing.



Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on ACP Project documents. For questions or additional information, 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