



# VIEWS & VISIONS

A publication of Bowles Rice LLP

Winter 2019



## The Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Bringing Clean Burning, Reliable and Affordable Energy Independence to Our Region

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Robert C. Orndorff, Jr. serves as the State Policy Director for Dominion Energy. He joined the former CNG Transmission Corporation in 1995 as Coordinator of Drug and Alcohol Testing. He later became its Government Affairs Representative and subsequently was promoted to Manager and Director of State and Local Government Affairs.

Orndorff is a board member for the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, previous Chair of its Energy Committee; Philanthropy West Virginia; Harrison County Chamber of Commerce, past Chairman; and the American Red Cross – West Virginia Region.

He currently serves as an appointee on the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission's publicity committee, the Air Quality Review Board for the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and the West Virginia Governor's Oil and Gas Safety Commission. He has served as board member and Past President of the West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association, board member of the Ohio Gas Association and board member of the Virginia Oil and Gas Association.

Overcoming an unusually wet spring and summer while working through a series of requests for additional reviews from

state and federal agencies, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) made great strides in 2018. This 600-mile-long project is one of the largest infrastructure projects in North America and is being constructed to meet the needs of new and emerging markets in the Mid-Atlantic region. It will give new outlets for natural gas produced in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio. Starting construction in May 2018, West Virginia was the first state to receive the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Notice to Proceed and has seen the most progress along the pipeline route. Construction in North Carolina followed later in July, after receiving its federal Notice to Proceed. And on October 19, 2018, the final state permit for Virginia was received, allowing ACP to petition FERC to proceed with full mainline construction in all three states.

Since beginning West Virginia construction, ACP's five Mountain State counties – Harrison, Lewis, Upshur, Randolph and Pocahontas – have



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laid 25 miles of pipe and begun site prep for the project's West Virginia compressor station in Lewis County. In 2018, Dominion Energy Transmission Inc.'s lesser known 37.5-mile Supply Header Project, located in southern Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia, also completed eight miles of construction as well as modifications on existing compressor stations. This construction will bring the supply of natural gas to join ACP and supply areas in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia to market areas in Virginia and North Carolina.

ACP's economic activity during construction is projected to surpass \$2.7 billion, plus has the volume to generate \$28 million annually in property tax revenue for local governments once in service. Paired with the millions of dollars in energy cost savings for consumers and businesses once in operation, this makes the economic benefits of this infrastructure development undeniable.



*Atlantic Coast Pipeline grant to Elkins Town Square amphitheater*





Once fully completed, ACP will have been responsible for the creation of over 17,000 construction jobs, not including the thousands more generated from the economic ripple effect it will bring for years to come. Through a commitment with the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) Mid-Atlantic, ACP is welcoming a new generation of workers into the construction industry with free training and resources through partnerships with trade schools and colleges along the pipeline route. For many in West Virginia, this opportunity is a turning point for families and communities with the promise of job training, lasting careers and restored hope for our region.

After less than one year of construction, ACP is also fueling local business growth. Restaurants, gas stations, hotels and locally owned stores are booming in areas where construction is active. This economic boost is growing small businesses, creating jobs and supporting West Virginians.



But job creation and business growth aren't the only areas seeing the value of ACP being in town. We're getting word regularly about ACP contractors and employees making personal donations to local school supply drives, food banks and to people in crisis. Recently, employees even volunteered to restore a youth soccer field in Upshur County after vandals destroyed the grounds. ACP is also investing thousands of charitable dollars into local communities by helping support youth outreach, libraries, food access programs, community events and numerous nonprofits across the region. Because of this, the benefits of this project are reaching much farther than the 600-miles of pipeline that are going into the ground.

ACP has been the most thoroughly reviewed infrastructure project in the history of our region. This additional scrutiny by the courts only reinforces the incredibly high standard that is being applied to the project. Throughout the design and construction phases, our commitments to safety and the environment have been a top priority and continue to guide our actions every day. Implementing voluntary environmental and safety controls above and beyond what is required by law, we have worked closely with more than a dozen state and federal agencies along with citizen groups committed to conservation.

The FERC stop work order in August 2018, along with delays obtaining permits necessary for construction, has undeniably impacted the schedule for the project. ACP is pursuing a phased in-service approach with its customers, whereby maintaining a late 2019 in-service for key segments of the project to meet peak winter demand in critically constrained regions served by the project. ACP is pursuing a mid-2020 in-service date for the remaining segments of the project. The Supply Header project target in-service remains late 2019.

We continue to achieve key milestones toward the successful completion of this critical energy infrastructure project and look forward to delivering safe, reliable and affordable energy to our customers in time to meet peak demand for the 2019-2020 winter season. ▽

*Atlantic Coast Pipeline – under construction in Upshur County, West Virginia*