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Bcc: Kimberly_Smith@fws.gov
Subject: Update: Dereliction of Duty
Date: Monday, March 21, 2016 7:40:56 AM

Information distributed last week in an email titled, Dereliction of Duty, has been updated and posted on the Dominion Pipeline Monitoring Coalition website: www.pipelineupdate.org.

Last week's email followed a [Roanoke Times op-ed](#) by Columbia Gas of Virginia spokesman, Robert Innes, in which he objected to a widely circulated "misleading" photo of a slope failure on the company's pipeline construction project over Peters Mountain in Giles County.

Our update provides the photo in question and a detailed history of DPMC observations related to Columbia's pipeline project. The updated information also provides a point-by-point summary of our December 2015 complaint to the DEQ concerning this project, including DEQ's evasive responses.

Given the level of documentation, it seems folly, at best, that Columbia Gas would seek to draw more attention to its own poor performance and that of the enabling regulatory agency, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Additional context and impetus for our updated posting was provided by revelations last week concerning the leadership of the overly industry-cooperative DEQ. News reports revealed that Mr. David Paylor, Director of the DEQ, has a close relationship indeed with Dominion officials, from whom he accepts large gifts and with whom he shares weekend trips.

<http://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/chief-of-virginia-deq-attended-masters-tournament-on-dominions-dime/Content?oid=2300365>

Mr. Paylor would no doubt object that this is just business as usual, it's done all the time, and it's not strictly illegal. Nonetheless, it's unacceptable.

At present, Virginia citizens are confronted by pipeline construction on an unprecedented scale. The proposed 42-inch MVP and ACP pipelines would cross much more of the same type of steep mountain and karst valley terrain as was crossed by the relatively small 12-inch Peters Mountain project. And instead of an enforcement agency, our DEQ acts as a shield for pipeline construction companies, failing to effectively implement environmental laws and regulations, and allowing shoddy planning and construction practices. As a case study, the Peters Mountain project makes that clear.

To date we have no assurance that the DEQ will even require submission of state-compliant erosion and sediment control plans for the MVP and ACP. Six different county boards of supervisors have petitioned state officials, asking that the DEQ require E&SC plans and that the public be provided timely access to the plans. They have been waiting a long time without an answer. (A zip file including the six county resolutions is posted [here](#).)

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