

Three-minute speech at FERC's ACP Scoping meeting, Stuarts Draft High School,
March 19, 2015

My name is Robert Whitescarver.
I live at 120 Trimbles Mill Rd, Swoope, VA

I live here, in Augusta County.

Thank you for being here.

I am a retired District Conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's
Natural Resources Conservation Service for Headwaters SWCD.

I spent the last 27 years of my career helping people improve the resources on their
land and streams right here in Augusta County.

I have been on practically every farm in this County. I know the soils, the streams
and the rivers. I know about our karst geology with its sinkholes, caves, caverns and
solution channels.

Just about every farm in the county has a sinkhole. Augusta County, you could say, is
the "mother load" of karst geology in Virginia because it is the widest here and it is
the most active. Sinkholes open up.... frequently.

I have seen sinkholes that have opened up, or collapsed that could swallow a
tractor-trailer. I have seen foundations of homes fracture because of sinkhole
subsidence. Roads including Interstate 81 have been closed because sinkholes open
up.

According to Virginia's Hazard Mitigation Plan of 2013, "pipeline infrastructure,
underlain by karst terrain, can be damaged by a collapse in the supporting soil."

Dominion informs us that they can build in Karst with the proper engineering and
construction...and it will be safe.

I've heard these claims before. They are lofty promises not reflected in truth.
According to the U.S. Department of Transportation there were 80 natural gas
pipeline explosions in 2012 alone. Granted these may not have been attributed to
karst but it does show clearly that even when we use the best technology and the
best engineering accidents happen.

Even NASA with as much technology, engineering and safeguards as they have had
the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

Talk is cheap. With this being the widest Karst formation in Virginia and the area of
most subsidence why go through a high-risk area when there are other routes

through karst where karst is narrow such as near Buena Vista. Or why not skip the karst all together...it can be done.

This is the wrong place for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.