



SAMPLE PUBLIC COMMENTS

OUR PUBLIC LANDS AT RISK

There are so many reasons to reject new pipeline routes through our national forests. Here are just a few to help you get started and two very important points to make.

- 1) Reject a right of way through our national forests for the pipeline
- 2) Do not amend the George Washington National Forest Plan to allow the pipeline.

Reject a right of way for the pipeline because....

Harm to Special Biological Areas:

The new proposed routes threaten numerous areas designated “Special Biological Areas” that are very important to the overall biological health and diversity of the Forest. Also, like the initial route, this new path would impact endangered, threatened, and sensitive species.

Previously rejected this route

Dominion previously rejected this proposed route, because construction of a pipeline through this terrain would be especially difficult and would increase the project’s impacts to the environment to an unacceptable degree. The company has not justified their change in opinion on this matter.

Unstable Karst terrain

The new route would still cross large areas of karst terrain and threaten public and private water supplies to an unacceptable degree. Also, the route crosses very steep slopes, areas highly prone to landslides, and soils that are easily eroded and will pollute important streams.

Failure to consider other route options

Because Dominion’s earlier analysis of alternatives did not look at this proposed route, it has not been adequately compared to the other possible options in a fair way.

Do not amend the Forest Plan because...

Failure to consider required alternatives

The Forest Service has repeatedly insisted that Dominion must show why a route not crossing the George Washington National Forest is infeasible, before crossing the Forest may be allowed. Dominion has still failed to provide such reasons. No plan amendment should be adopted to allow Dominion to evade that responsibility.

No benefit to the public

Allowance of the new proposed route (GWNF 6) would be in conflict with federal laws requiring protection of high-value biological, recreational, and cultural resources that belong to the public and, in return, the pipeline would provide no benefit to the general public. The Forest Service has stated that many of these areas are unsuitable for utility construction and no new evidence refutes that judgement.

Shortcuts public process

The regular Forest Planning process allows extensive public participation and a deliberative approach to balance the many resource protection issues and uses on the Forest. To amend the current plan, which is to govern management of the Forest for 15 years or more, would short-circuit that process for the profit of private companies.

Please be sure to submit your comments in writing as well:

Comment through FERC's online system or by mail:

Reference the ACP Docket # CP15-554-000

Online: You can file your comments electronically using the eComment or eFiling feature located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to Documents and Filings.

Mail: You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426