For Immediate Release

Wild Virginia and Allegheny Defense Project Petition Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to Reconsider Cove Point LNG Export Approval

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Wild Virginia and Allegheny Defense Project have joined forces to request a rehearing of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s September 29 approval of Dominion Energy’s application to construct a natural gas export terminal at Cove Point, Maryland.

Wild Virginia has based its request on three important facts:

* FERC failed to consider the additional environmental impacts imposed by the construction and presence of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline which was publicly proposed in May of this year
* FERC failed to consider the impacts to the George Washington National Forest based on the increased probability of fracking, and
* FERC failed to require an Environmental Impact Statement to address these and numerous other environmental impacts dependent on the existence of the Cove Point terminal.

‘The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has failed to do its job,” said Ernie Reed, Wild Virginia President. “FERC is required to do a full analysis of all the impacts connected to Cove Point. Although the Atlantic Coast Pipeline alone would contribute 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day for export, the impacts on Virginia’s communities on this and other pipelines has been swept under the rug. And without Cove Point and the promise of natural gas exports, Dominion’s Atlantic Coast Pipeline could never pay for itself.”

“Moreover, as natural gas resources are drained from West Virginia, it puts more pressure on Virginia’s forests to be fracked,” Reed added. These impacts, Reed asserts, have also been arbitrarily ignored.

“Allowing gas exports at Cove Point will greatly induce fracking in Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Virginia,” said Ryan Talbott, Executive Director of the Allegheny Defense Project. “Nevertheless, FERC refused to consider the impacts of fracking in its environmental analysis. If these states are being told they have to bear the burden of providing gas for export to other countries, then FERC has an obligation to consider the environmental consequences of increased fracking in these states.”

FERC has 30 days to respond to the request for reconsideration.

Wild Virginia ([www.wildvirginia.org](http://www.wildvirginia.org)) is a grass-roots, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Virginia’s National Forests. The Allegheny Defense Project ([www.alleghenydefense.org](http://www.alleghenydefense.org)) is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the wild forests and rivers of the Allegheny Plateau and the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania’s only national forest.