



Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
 Office of Energy Projects
 Washington, DC 20426

Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Project *Final Environmental Impact Statement*

Volume I



Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.

Docket Nos. CP15-554-000, CP15-554-001, CP15-555-000, and CP15-556-000
 FERC/EIS-0274F

Cooperating Agencies:



**U.S. Department of
 Agriculture – Forest
 Service**



**US Army Corps
 of Engineers®**

**U.S. Army Corps of
 Engineers**



**U.S. Environmental
 Protection Agency**



**U.S. Fish and
 Wildlife Service**



**West Virginia
 Department of
 Environmental
 Protection**



**West Virginia
 Division of Natural
 Resources**

- washing equipment and personal gear (waders, boots) with high pressure, hot tap water, or drying equipment and gear in the sun for at least 10 days or freeze for at least 2 days before reuse.

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures

Accidental spills of construction-related fluids (e.g., oil, gasoline, or hydraulic fluids) into waterbodies could result in water quality impacts that affect fish and other aquatic organisms in adjacent streams, if present. The potential impact would depend on the type and quantity of the spill, and the dispersal and attenuation characteristics of the waterbody. An inadvertent release of fuel or equipment fluids could have acute impacts on fish and aquatic species including direct mortality, altered behavior, changes in physiological processes, or changes in food sources. In turn, ingestion of large numbers of contaminated fish or aquatic species could impact other species located higher in the food chain that prey on these biota. Minimization and mitigation procedures related to water quality are discussed in section 4.3. To reduce the potential for surface water contamination and resulting impacts on aquatic life, Atlantic and DETI would implement its *SPCC Plan* (see table 2.3.1-1), which includes BMPs to minimize the potential for accidental releases and measures that would be implemented to clean up any releases. Additional measures in the *FERC Plan* and *Procedures* (see table 2.3.1-1) include conducting routine inspections of construction equipment, tanks, and storage areas to help reduce the potential for spills or leaks; restricting refueling and the handling of hazardous materials to greater than 100 feet from wetland and waterbody resources; and the use of secondary containment around all containers and tanks. With adherence to these measures, we conclude that impacts on aquatic resources from potential spills would be adequately minimized.

4.6.5 Aquatic Resources on Federal Lands

The general impacts and mitigation measures described above in section 4.6.4 would also apply to NFS lands. The FS expressed concern regarding the potential for increased sedimentation caused by erosion of exposed soil in the pipeline construction workspace, access roads, and staging areas to affect the HUC12 subwatersheds that ACP would cross within the MNF and GWNF. Atlantic has prepared a Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Model Report assessing the extent of sedimentation that could occur within these priority subwatersheds during construction. Table 4.6.5-1 presents the results of Atlantic's Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Model Report by subwatersheds occurring in the MNF and GWNF. The model results indicate an annual soil loss ranging from 2.19 to 8.00 tons/acre during the first year of construction, which equates to approximately 200 to 800 percent above baseline erosion rates for the subwatershed (0.4 to 1.33 mm of soil loss). Soil erosion rates are predicted to be higher where there are steeper slopes and higher soil erodibility values. The model results indicate a decline in soil erosion with time as the construction workspace is restored and becomes revegetated. In most cases, predicted soil erosion rates returned to baseline by the third year. The model results also accounted for the implementation of soil erosion devices, such as water diversion bars and standard silt fencing, and assumed these erosion control devices would reduce erosion by 96 percent. Although these results indicate a substantial increase in soil erosion relative to baseline rates as averaged across a year, in reality, erosion and sedimentation will be event-driven, occurring in response to precipitation events, and will likely be episodic. As stated in the Erosion and Sediment Model Report, one ton/year of soil entering a waterbody with a flow of 1 cubic feet per second would result in 1 milligram per liter (mg/l) of suspended solids. The 1986 EPA Quality Criteria for Water indicates that settleable and suspended solids should not reduce the depth of the compensation point for photosynthetic activity by more than 10 percent from the seasonably established norm for aquatic life (EPA, 2003). Although baseline concentrations for suspended solids and turbidity concentrations are not currently available for most of the waterbodies proposed to be crossed by ACP, and this criterion is more relevant to lakes and large rivers, and not readily applicable to shallow flowing mountain streams, turbidity would be used to monitor water quality impacts as described below.