



January 27, 2017

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

**Re: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC & Dominion Transmission, Inc.
Atlantic Coast Pipeline & Supply Header Projects
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000, CP15-554-001, & CP15-555-000
Supplemental Information**

Dear Secretary Bose:

On September 18, 2015, Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) and Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) filed abbreviated applications (Applications), under the above referenced dockets CP15-554-000 and CP15-555-000, for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Supply Header Projects (Projects) pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, as amended, and Part 157 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission or FERC). Additionally, on March 14, 2016, Atlantic filed an Amendment to its pending Application, under the above referenced docket CP15-554-001.

DTI, on behalf of Atlantic and itself, hereby submits supplemental information. This submission consists of the following documents:

- Supplemental Information – January 27, 2017
- Appendix A – Cochran’s Cave Conservation Area Investigation Update
- Appendix B – Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
- Appendix C – Second Draft of the Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan
- Appendix D – Updated Draft Biological Assessment (**Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release**)
- Appendix E – Update to the Migratory Bird Plan
- Appendix F – Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Reports
- Appendix G – Archaeological Site Testing Reports (**Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release**)
- Appendix H – Agency Correspondence for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline – Public
- Appendix I – Agency Correspondence for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline – Privileged (**Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release**)
- Appendix J – Agency Correspondence for the Supply Header Project – Public

DTI requests that, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 388.112, the information filed in Appendices D, G, and I be treated as privileged and confidential, and that this information not be released to the public. This information is labeled “Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release” and contains the locations of sensitive species and archaeological resources, which are customarily treated as privileged and confidential.

DTI sent nine copies of Appendix F (Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Reports) in electronic format directly to Commission staff. These files are too large to fit on media appropriate for eLibrary submittals.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 866-319-3382.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela M. Woolard

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Regulatory and Certificates Analyst III

cc: Mr. Kevin Bowman, FERC
Service List

encl(s)/



ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE, LLC
ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE
Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 &
CP15-554-001

and



DOMINION TRANSMISSION, INC.
SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT
Docket No. CP15-555-000

Supplemental Information
January 27, 2017

Prepared by



January 27, 2017

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APPENDICES

Appendix A	Cochran's Cave Conservation Area Investigation Update
Appendix B	Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan
Appendix C	Second Draft of the Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan
Appendix D	Fifth Draft of the Draft Biological Assessment (Contains Privileged Information – Filed Under Separate Cover)
Appendix E	Update to the Migratory Bird Plan
Appendix F	Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Reports
Appendix G	Archaeological Site Testing Reports (Contains Privileged Information – Filed Under Separate Cover)
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ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE – Docket Nos. CP15-554-000 and CP15-554-001**SUPPLY HEADER PROJECT – Docket No. CP15-555-000****1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ENGINEERING DATA****1.1 Update on Ongoing Investigations at Cochran’s Cave Conservation Area**

Staff Recommendation 15 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) and Supply Header Project (SHP) (collectively, the Projects) directed Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC (Atlantic) and Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI) to consult with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) to “determine if the route alignment and construction activities would impact Cochran’s Cave Conservation Site or Cochran’s Cave No. 2.” Atlantic conducted a subsurface investigation at the Cochran’s Cave Conservation Area (CCCA) to assess the potential for impacts on the cave due to construction of the ACP. This investigation, which was conducted in consultation with the VDCR, included electrical resistivity imaging, air track drilling, and hydrological and dye trace investigations at the CCCA. A report summarizing the results of the study is provided as Appendix A.

Atlantic sent a copy of the report to the VDCR for review on January 24, 2017. A copy of Atlantic’s transmittal letter to the VDCR is provided with Appendix A. Atlantic will file comments from the VDCR on the report when available.

1.2 Update to the Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

Staff Recommendation 16 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects states that Atlantic “shall consult with VDCR karst protection personnel” prior to conducting geotechnical borings in karst terrain and shall “follow the Virginia Cave Board’s ‘Karst Assessment Standard Practice’ for land development when completing the borings.”

Staff Recommendation 22 states that “prior to construction, Atlantic shall consult the appropriate state agencies to identify additional mitigation procedures to be implemented in the event construction activities intercept a saturated karst conduit” and file with FERC “the measures that it will implement to minimize these impacts.”

Staff Recommendation 34 states that “prior to the close of the draft EIS comment period, Atlantic shall file with the Secretary, and provide to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), a revised *Karst Mitigation Plan*, developed in coordination with the appropriate agencies that takes into account unknown underground features, porosity, and connectivity of these subterranean systems, and the potential implications to subterranean obligate species.”

Atlantic and DTI prepared an update to its *Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan* to address the issues identified in Staff Recommendations 16, 22, and 34. Atlantic and DTI will continue to consult with VDCR and the Virginia Cave Board and will implement measures in the *Karst Assessment Standard Practice* as applicable.

A copy of the update to the *Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan* is provided as Appendix B. Atlantic and DTI additionally provided copies of the plan update to the following agencies for review:

- USFS, on January 27, 2017, as an attachment to the second draft of the Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan (COM Plan) for the ACP (see Appendix C of this filing);
- USFWS, on January 27, 2017, as an attachment to the fifth draft of the Biological Assessment (BA) for the Projects (see Appendix D of this filing);
- WVDNR, on January 24, 2017, by letter transmittal (see Appendix H of this filing);
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP), on January 24, 2017, by letter transmittal (see Appendix H of this filing);
- VDCR, on January 24, 2017, by letter transmittal (see Appendix H of this filing); and
- VDGIF, on January 24, 2017, by letter transmittal (see Appendix H of this filing).

Atlantic will file comments from the USFS, USFWS, WVDNR, WVDEP, VDCR, and VDGIF on the update to the *Karst Terrain Assessment, Construction, Monitoring and Mitigation Plan* when available.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

2.1 Update to the Draft Construction, Operations, and Maintenance Plan

Atlantic continues to consult with the USFS regarding the proposed ACP crossings of the Monongahela and George Washington National Forests. Atlantic has prepared a second draft of its *COM Plan*, which describes measures to be implemented during the construction, restoration, and operating phases of the ACP on USFS lands. A copy of the second draft of the *COM Plan* is provided as Appendix C, along with a copy of the transmittal letter to the USFS.

Staff Recommendation 33 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic to file with FERC and the USFS “a revised *Restoration and Rehabilitation Plan* and *COM Plan*, that incorporates the seed mixes and application techniques, developed in coordination with the MNF and GWNF, that will be used for restoration of construction workspaces” on USFS lands. This second draft of the *COM Plan*, which includes a *Restoration and Rehabilitation Plan*, fulfills this Staff Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation 35 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic to file with FERC, and provide to the USFWS for approval, a revised *Migratory Bird Plan*, and to provide to the USFS for approval, a revised *COM Plan*, that would “identify areas where Atlantic will construct during the migratory bird season, and identify the additional conservation measures developed in coordination with the USFWS and/or USFS, and other appropriate agencies, that it will implement to minimize impacts on nesting migratory birds in areas where construction during the active season cannot be avoided.” This update to the

COM Plan fulfills part of this Staff Recommendation. The fulfillment of the *Migratory Bird Plan* portion of this Recommendation is discussed in Section 2.3.

Staff Recommendation 76a of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement directed Atlantic to provide “further justification for the installation of new access road 36-016.AR1 at AP-1 MP 96.3 within the GWNF.” Access Road 36-016.AR1 is an existing USFS road (FR 281). Atlantic’s plans for this access road include a widening of the entrance way, where FR 281 intersects Indian Draft Road, and graveling of the road surface. Atlantic is not proposing construction or reconstruction of FR 281. Therefore, since the road is existing no further justification is needed and Staff Recommendation 76a is fulfilled.

Staff Recommendation 76b directed Atlantic to provide “clarification that it would not require new access road 36-014.AR3 at AP-1 MP 94.1 within the GWNF” and Staff Recommendation 76c directed Atlantic to provide “a revised *COM Plan* that reflects updates to the access roads on NFS lands.” The second draft of the *COM Plan* provides an update on the access roads proposed for use on USFS lands including a clarification that access road 36-014.AR3 would not be required for the ACP. Therefore, the submittal of the *COM Plan* fulfills Staff Recommendations 76b and 76c.

Atlantic will file comments from the USFS on the second draft of the *COM Plan* when available.

2.2 Update to the Draft Biological Assessment

Atlantic and DTI continue to consult with the USFWS to assess the potential for impacts on threatened and endangered species due to construction and operation of the ACP and SHP (collectively the Projects). Atlantic and DTI have prepared a fifth and final draft of the Biological Assessment (BA), which assesses impacts and identifies conservation measures for avoiding or minimizing impacts on federally listed species. The fifth and final draft of the BA addresses comments from the USFWS on the previous draft of the document. A copy of the fifth and final draft of the BA, and the transmittal letter to the USFWS, is provided as Appendix D. Because it contains location information for threatened and endangered species, Appendix D is filed under separate cover and is marked “Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release”.

Staff Recommendation 46a directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS an analysis of “alternative water sources and discharge locations for waterbodies with documented or assumed presence of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed or under review species” and “commit to FWS-approved conservation measures that they will implement to protect ESA-listed and under review species”. The fifth draft of the BA includes discussions regarding alternative water sources and various commitments to implement conservation measures for waterbodies containing ESA-listed or under review species. As discussed in the draft BA, Atlantic and DTI are proposing to use municipal water sources for water withdrawals which were previously planned in sensitive waterbodies, with the exception of the James and Appomattox Rivers (ACP Construction Spread 6) and McElroy Creek (SHP), where there are no suitable alternative sources. Atlantic and DTI additionally committed to implementing several measures to minimize impacts on ESA-listed or under review species, including screening of intake structures, use of floating intake structures, limiting the amount of water withdrawn based on the volume of the waterbody’s discharge, and implementing time of year restrictions. Therefore, the submittal of the fifth draft of the BA fulfills Staff Recommendation 46a.

Staff Recommendation 46b directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS “a list of waterbodies supporting ESA-listed or under review species...that will be crossed by or adjacent to proposed access roads” and a “description of the conservation measures that Atlantic and DTI will implement to reduce impacts on ESA-listed and under review species from access road construction and use.” The requested list of waterbodies is provided in Attachment B, Table B-3 of the draft BA. As requested by the USFWS, and as discussed in the draft BA, Atlantic will implement additional erosion and sediment control measures at sensitive waterbodies in watersheds with potential to have listed species. These measures, which are identified and described in the draft BA, will reduce the chance of sediment from construction activities in upland areas, on access roads, and within waterbodies from reaching sensitive waterbodies in adjacent areas. The information provided in the BA on waterbodies supporting ESA-listed or under review species and conservation measures to reduce impacts on these species from the construction and use of access roads fulfills Staff Recommendation 46b.

Staff Recommendation 48 directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS the total acres of occupied Indiana bat habitat that would be impacted by construction of the Projects during the active season and the total acres of suitable Indiana bat habitat that would be affected by construction of the Projects. Atlantic and DTI will clear forested habitat during the winter season when Indiana bats are hibernating in caves. Table 5.4.3-2 in the draft BA provides the acreages of Indiana bat habitat that will be affected by construction of the Projects. Therefore, the submittal of the draft BA fulfills Staff Recommendation 48.

Staff Recommendation 49 directed Atlantic to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS “additional conservation measures as required by the West Virginia Field Office” relative to the West Virginia Myotis Bat Conservation Plan. As discussed in draft BA, Atlantic and DTI will implement a number of measures designed to minimize impacts on Indiana and northern long-eared bats and additionally will mitigate for loss of Indiana bat potential primary and secondary roost trees lost as a result of the Projects. For ACP, a conservation site will be acquired to provide offsite mitigation as well as opportunities for bat habitat enhancement and the long-term preservation of bat roosting and suitable hibernacula habitat near the Project area. For SHP, bat mitigation for lost potential roost trees from project construction will be completed onsite through the installation and monitoring of bat boxes. Atlantic and DTI have committed to providing a mitigation plan to the USFWS West Virginia office under separate cover prior to the issuance of the Biological Opinion by the USFWS for the Projects. The impact and mitigation discussion in the draft BA and the meeting notes from a November 22, 2016 meeting with Liz Stout of the USFWS (Appendix H of this filing), which describe Atlantic’s and DTI’s commitment to provide a mitigation plan under separate cover, fulfills Staff Recommendation 49.

Staff Recommendation 51 directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS the total acres of occupied northern long-eared bat habitat that would be impacted by construction of the Projects during the active season and the total acres of suitable northern-long eared bat habitat that would be affected by construction of the Projects. Atlantic and DTI will clear forested habitat during the winter season when northern long-eared bats are hibernating in caves. Atlantic has confirmed with the West Virginia field office that the previously recommended 3-mile radius on northern long-eared bats acoustic detections or mist net captures is no longer relevant with the adoption of the 4(d) rule. No tree clearing will occur within 0.25 mile of known hibernacula during any time of the year as described in Table 5.5.4-1 of the draft

BA. Atlantic confirmed the applicability of 4(d) rule to habitat for northern long-eared bat in a meeting with the USFWS on November 29, 2016 (minutes pending).

Additionally, Atlantic and DTI will not clear trees along access roads within 0.25 mile of two of the three known hibernacula (Falling Spring Cave and PH-S007/PH-S008), per the 4(d) rule for the northern long-eared bat; however, trimming of overhead vegetation may be required. Due to the distances of the known hibernacula to the Project workspace and commitment to not clear trees within 0.25 mile of known hibernacula, no impacts on northern long-eared bat hibernacula or swarming activities are anticipated. Where Atlantic and DTI need to clear trees on access road “04-002-B082.AR1” (near PH-S018), tree clearing will not be conducted during the fall swarming period (September 1 through November 15) to reduce the chance of take of swarming bats. The information on northern long-eared bat provided in the draft BA fulfills Staff Recommendation 51.

Staff Recommendation 52 directed Atlantic and DTI to file with the Secretary and provide to the USFWS a revised list of known northern long-eared bat hibernacula located within 0.25 mile of the Projects. The draft BA includes a table that lists known federally-listed bat hibernacula, including for northern long-eared bat, within 5 miles of the ACP (by distance from workspace). Additionally, the text of the draft BA discusses known federally-listed bat hibernacula, including for northern long-eared bat, in proximity to the ACP, including within 0.25 mile. There are no known federally-listed bat hibernacula within 5 miles of the SHP. The information on bat hibernacula provided in the fifth draft BA fulfills Staff Recommendation 52.

Staff Recommendation 54 directed Atlantic to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS “a revised master waterbody crossing table that assumes presence of the Roanoke logperch in waterbodies where desktop analysis has indicated suitable habitat, and implementation of all conservation measures described in this EIS.” Table B-3, Attachment B, of the draft BA identifies waterbodies where the presence of Roanoke logperch is assumed or confirmed, and the text of the draft BA describes conservation measures for this species. Therefore, the draft BA partially fulfills Staff Recommendation 54. Atlantic and DTI anticipate filing a complete update to the master waterbody table in March 2017.

Staff Recommendation 57 directed Atlantic and DTI to consult with the USFWS and other agencies to identify conservation measures for avoiding or minimizing impacts on federally listed and under review mussels documented during surveys conducted in 2017. This recommendation also directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS final avoidance and minimization plans for federally listed and under review mussel species. The draft BA identifies specific conservation measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to mussel species, including:

- Use of the HDD method to cross the James River, Nottoway River, Roanoke River, Fishing Creek, Swift Creek, Tar River, Contentnea Creek, Little River, and Cape Fear River to avoid direct impacts on listed and under review mussels, if present in these waterbody;
- Use of municipal water sources, where available, for hydrostatic testing and HDD operations rather than withdrawing water from waterbodies with the potential for federally listed species; and

- Implementation of additional erosion and sediment control measures at sensitive waterbodies in watersheds with potential to have listed species to reduce the chance of sediment from construction activities in upland areas, on access roads, and within waterbodies from reaching sensitive waterbodies in adjacent areas.

The draft BA additionally addresses waterbodies where mussel surveys are planned for 2017. In waterbodies where surveys are needed, in the event that federally listed mussel species are identified, Atlantic and DTI will review the crossing to determine if a route adjustment can avoid direct impacts on the mussels or if an HDD crossing is feasible. If a route adjustment or HDD is not feasible, Atlantic and DTI will apply for a permit to relocate mussels prior to construction to minimize impacts on the mussels. The information contained in the draft BA regarding avoidance and minimization measures and future mussel surveys fulfills Staff Recommendation 57.

Staff Recommendation 58 directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS “a species evaluation and corresponding conservation measures for the rusty patched bumble bee.” The draft BA includes a species description and impact evaluation and provides conservation measures and preliminary determinations of effect for this species. Therefore, the submittal of the draft BA fulfills Staff Recommendation 58.

Staff Recommendation 59 directed Atlantic and DTI to consult with the USFWS and other agencies to identify conservation measures for avoiding or minimizing impacts on listed plant populations documented in previous field surveys or surveys planned to be completed in 2017. The recommendation also directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC and provide to the USFWS final avoidance and minimization plan for listed plant species. The draft BA identifies a number of specific conservation measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to mussel species, including:

- Route adjustments designed to avoid Michaux’s sumac, Virginia sneezeweed, running buffalo clover, and small whorled pogonia; and
- Pursuit of a mitigation property to preserve a large population of running buffalo and support the recovery and delisting of the species.

The draft BA additionally addresses areas where surveys are planned for 2017. If federally listed plants are identified in these areas, direct impacts will be avoided if possible. If direct impacts cannot be avoided, Atlantic and DTI will work with the USFWS to determine appropriate minimization and/or mitigation measures. The information contained in the draft BA regarding avoidance and minimization plans and future plant surveys fulfills Staff Recommendation 59.

Atlantic and DTI will file comments from the USFWS on the draft BA when available.

2.3 Update to the Migratory Bird Plan

Atlantic and DTI continue to consult with the USFWS to assess the potential for impacts on migratory birds due to construction and operation of the Projects. Atlantic and DTI have prepared an update to the *Migratory Bird Plan*, which identifies measures for avoiding or

minimizing impacts on migratory birds. The update to the *Migratory Bird Plan* addresses comments from the USFWS on the previous revision of this plan. A copy of the updated plan is provided as Appendix E, along with a copy of the transmittal letter to the USFWS.

Staff Recommendation 35 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic to file with FERC, and provide to the USFWS for approval, a revised *Migratory Bird Plan*, and to provide to the USFS for approval, a revised *COM Plan*, that would “identify areas where Atlantic will construct during the migratory bird season, and identify the additional conservation measures developed in coordination with the USFWS and/or USFS, and other appropriate agencies, that it will implement to minimize impacts on nesting migratory birds in areas where construction during the active season cannot be avoided.” This update to the *Migratory Bird Plan* fulfills part of this Staff Recommendation. The *COM Plan* fulfillment of this Recommendation was previously discussed in Section 2.1. Between the *COM Plan* and the *Migratory Bird Plan*, this Recommendation is fulfilled.

Additionally, Staff Recommendation 36 of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic and DTI to file with FERC “a revised Migratory Bird Plan that includes appropriate conservation measures developed in coordination with the USFWS and the appropriate state/commonwealth agencies for the following active rookeries with disturbance buffers that overlap ACP workspace: ROOK-ACT-02 (VA), ROOK-01 (WV), WBC 01 (NC), WBC 02 (NC), WBC 04 (NC), WBC 05 (NC), WBC 07 (NC), WBC 12 (NC), and WBC 15 (NC).” The update to the *Migratory Bird Plan* includes appropriate conservation measures for these rookeries, which have been developed in coordination with the USFWS. Atlantic and DTI will file comments from the USFWS on the updated plan when available.

Staff Recommendation 36 also directs Atlantic to coordinate with Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR), and North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to verify that no additional conservation measures would be required for the Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI) and Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) rookeries, and provide copies of agency correspondence related to these discussions. Consultation with these agencies is ongoing, and Atlantic will file comments and correspondence when available.

2.4 Wetland and Waterbody Delineation Reports

Atlantic and DTI are conducting field surveys to delineate wetlands and waterbodies within the construction footprints for the Projects and preparing summary reports. With this filing, Atlantic and DTI are submitting the following reports:

- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in West Virginia (Pittsburgh District);
- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in West Virginia (Huntington District);
- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in Virginia (Norfolk District);
- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in North Carolina (Wilmington District);

- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in the Monongahela National Forest;
- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the ACP in the George Washington National Forest; and
- Wetland and Waterbody Survey Report for the SHP in West Virginia (Huntington District).

Copies of these reports are provided as Appendix F.

2.5 Phase II Archaeological Site Testing Reports

Atlantic is conducting surveys and site testing to assess the potential for impacts to cultural resources. With this filing, Atlantic is submitting a Phase II archaeological site testing report for a site in West Virginia and a Phase II archaeological site testing report for multiple sites in the GWNF in Virginia. Because these reports contain site location information, they are being filed under separate cover as Appendix G. The reports are marked “Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release”.

2.6 Update Regarding Mussel Species in West Virginia

2.6.1 South Fork Fishing Creek

Staff Recommendation 63a of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic and DTI to reassess with the WVDNR “whether mussel surveys are needed at the South Fork Fishing Creek permanent access road crossing (AP-2 MP 33.5).” Atlantic and DTI assume this recommendation refers to Access Road 33-011-AR01 of the TL-635 mainline, which provides access to SHP Contractor Yard 6. Access Road 33-011-AR01 is an existing, permanent, maintained, two-way, paved road which crosses South Fork Fishing Creek on an existing bridge with a concrete surface, concrete reinforced supports, and metal side rails. No improvements will be required for the road or the bridge.

The 2016 West Virginia Mussel Survey Protocols state that “all streams that contain mussels or potential mussel habitat must be surveyed prior to any proposed streambed disturbance” (Clayton et al., 2015). Because no improvements will be required for the road or the bridge across South Fork Fishing Creek, no streambed disturbance will occur at this location.

Reference:

Clayton, J., B. Douglas, and P. Morrison. 2016. West Virginia Mussel Survey Protocols. Available online at: <http://www.wvdnr.gov/Mussels/Main.shtm>.

2.6.2 Green Floater Mussel

Staff Recommendation 63b of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Projects directed Atlantic and DTI to consult with the USFWS and WVDNR regarding “whether additional conservation measures are necessary to protect for the potential for green floater mussel in the Greenbrier River where in-stream blasting and water withdrawal of up to 4.5 million gallons of hydrotest water has been proposed.” The update to the draft BA provided as

Appendix D includes an assessment of impacts on green floater mussel, such as impacts associated with water withdrawals, the crossing method, blasting, timing windows and sedimentation.

Atlantic originally proposed to withdraw water from the Greenbrier River, which is known to contain green floater, for use in hydrostatic testing and other construction activities on construction spread 3. Municipal sources of water are available to support these activities, however, and will now be used as the water source for the hydrostatic testing and other activities on spread 3. Atlantic additionally has proposed a cofferdam crossing method for the Greenbrier River, which will reduce the amount of sedimentation in the waterbody compared to an open cut. In waterbodies with known or potential occurrences of federally listed species, including the Greenbrier River, Atlantic will use blasting to remove rock in the trench line, as blasting is the least environmentally impactful method of rock removal. Blasting in waterbodies will be done “in the dry” (i.e., after flow has been diverted around the construction area), and matting will be used to minimize noise and vibration.

As requested by the USFWS, Atlantic will implement additional erosion and sediment control measures at sensitive waterbodies with the potential to contain listed species, including the Greenbrier River. These measures are described in detail in the update to the draft BA provided as Appendix D. These measures will reduce the potential for sediment associated with construction activities in upland areas, including the use of access roads, and within waterbodies from reaching sensitive waterbodies in adjacent areas.

3.0 AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

Atlantic submitted summaries of agency contacts and copies of select correspondence with agencies in Appendices 1H and 1I of Resource Report 1, which were filed with the FERC Application on September 18, 2015 (FERC Accession Number 20150918-5212). Updated summaries of agency contacts and copies of correspondence were also provided with supplemental filings or data responses on October 30, November 13, and December 15, 2015, and January 13, January 29, March 24, April 15, May 13, June 17, July 1, July 18, July 29, August 15, September 1, September 15, September 30, October 17, October 20, October 31, November 17, and December 1, 2016, and January 10, 2017 (FERC Accession Numbers 20151030-5363, 20151113-5192, 20151215-5252, 20160113-5231, 20160129-5227, 20160324-5120, 20160415-5014, 20160513-5223, 20160617-5151, 20160701-5255, 20160718-5164, 20160729-5256, 20160816-5051, 20160901-5260, 20160915-5216, 20160930-5310, 20161017-5045, 20161020-5049, 20161031-5198, 20161117-5168, 20161201-5309, and 20170110-5142, respectively).

A summary of recent agency contacts and copies of correspondence for the ACP are provided in Appendix H. Because some of Atlantic’s recent correspondence with agencies contains location information on threatened or endangered species or archaeological sites, this correspondence is being filed under separate cover as Appendix I, which is marked “Contains Privileged Information – Do Not Release”. Additionally, an agency correspondence letter for the SHP is provided in Appendix J.