

## **Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Local Economic Benefits Overstated & Not Auditable**

The partners of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, Dominion Transmission, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and AGL Resources propose to build a 550 mile high pressurized natural gas pipeline from West Virginia to North Carolina that will scar approximately 12,972 acres during construction and 4,370 permanently. They hired ICF International and Chmura Economic & Analytics to produce data of the economic impacts of the ACP. The Southern Environmental Law Center commissioned Synapse Energy Economics (Synapse) to objectively review the two reports. From their findings it appears that the ACP hired the two firms to give a favorable economic impact report. The ACP has promoted these favorable results to local officials, businesses, land owners, and groups up and down the proposed route to gather support for the ACP. The reality is the ACP's economic benefits are overstated and not auditable according to Synapse's independent review.

### **Here are eight main discrepancies that they found concerning ACP's economic impact report:**

1. Reports use economic data that is not publicly available, thus is it not auditable and can not be trusted. In other words, where are they getting their numbers from?
2. They suggest significant natural gas saving to power plants, but their data is inadequately explained and not support by the facts.
3. Assume that local businesses will save significant money on their energy bill because of the ACP and as a result they will hire more staff. There are no guarantees that Duke or Dominion will lower energy bills as a result of the ACP. Plus the assumption that local businesses will hire new staff is not supported by evidence.
4. Data of job creation and increase of tax revenue is not auditable and not supported by evidence
5. Avoids the fact that the cost to build ACP could be passed down to customers thus canceling any "assumed" savings for local businesses or residents.
6. Reports ignore the real cost of public safety, human health, and welfare.
7. They dismiss the real cost of replacing natural resources, habitat, wildlife, aged forest, and trees that will be lost.
8. If the ACP economic impacts were true they would not produce noticeable profitable benefits until 2027.

Synapse's complete eleven page review is available at

<http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/Atlantic-Coast-Pipeline-Benefits-Review-14-150.pdf>

### **Other ACP Economic Impacts to consider:**

- The ACP says that it will bring in a lot of tax revenue for the local economy. This is strictly based on their assumption of job growth and income taxes paid by these jobs. Also they assume because of the energy saving that local businesses will produce more profit thus paying more business tax.
- There will only be a small spike in tax revenue for local economies because the temporary pipeline construction workers that may buy from local restaurants and businesses.
- The local government will NOT get an extra property tax payment from ACP's easements for property that is already receiving property tax from owners.
- The cost for a local manufacturer or industrial business to tap into the highly pressurized ACP for energy savings will be cost prohibitive for many because it can cost each one between \$1 million to \$5 million.
- Property values will greatly decrease along the ACP route
- Property owners assume greater liability in case of ACP accident on their property

For more information go to [www.BREDL.org](http://www.BREDL.org)

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