

# **People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Environmental Justice**

## **Impacts of Fracked-Gas Infrastructure**

### **Conclusions and Recommendations from the Judges**

**Charlottesville, Virginia**

**October 28, 2017**

WHEREAS Indigenous Peoples, People of Color, Descendants of Freedmen Communities, Appalachian Communities and Vulnerable Populations have been blatantly targeted and will most certainly be, and in some cases already are, negatively impacted by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipelines, as evidenced throughout the Tribunal Testimonies; and

WHEREAS numerous and diverse examples of cultural attachment and historic preservation atrocities exist, violations of religious and cultural practices and beliefs exist and capricious use of eminent domain to deprive people of property and heritage, including such activities as destruction of historical records, and intimidation tactics; and

WHEREAS there was a consistent and pervasive lack of public participation, lack of opportunities for public input and access to information, such as the denial of access to the wireless tower planned by the pipeline, and the denial of consultancy status to Preservation VA, under §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; and

WHEREAS there are numerous threats to the built environment, including places of faith, roads, highways, driveways and homes, many of which are located within the blast zone, and have existed for generations; and

WHEREAS water is put at grave risk because of the continuous criss-crossing of the proposed pipelines through rivers, streams, groundwater and wetlands, and that under current regulations, pipes in rural areas are dramatically thinner, putting our water at tremendous risk; and

WHEREAS many witnesses testified to the release of greenhouse gases from pipelines and compressor stations, adding to climate change and therefore harming the environment and adding to the burden, both locally and globally; and

WHEREAS all of these insults negatively impact the health of humans and all living things, especially the most vulnerable - women of childbearing age, pregnant women, children, the elderly and the infirm;

THIS TRIBUNAL strongly recommends that the states of West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina, along with all environmental agencies, should

- (1) Suspend all actions,
- (2) Undertake necessary, thorough investigations, such as environmental, cultural and health impacts assessments, with real voice and real vote from the community,
- (3) Immediately Cease and Desist eminent domain actions.

In addition, we strongly recommend that the United Nations Human Rights Council should put the United States on trial for crimes against human rights.



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