

# Our project newsletter to stakeholders

We are pleased to provide you with the sixth newsletter for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) as part of our effort to maintain communication with stakeholders throughout the filing process.

## Mountain Valley Pipeline Receives Draft Environmental Impact Statement

On September 16, 2016, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. This DEIS comes after more than 27 months

of project planning and development, and takes into account the analyzed data from the civil and environmental surveys that have been conducted, as well as the comments, considerations, and concerns of landowners, community members, government agencies, and local elected officials along the proposed route.

The DEIS assesses potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the pipeline in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The DEIS acknowledges the project may pose some environmental impacts; however, these can be reduced with the implementation of MVP's proposed mitigation measures and additional methods recommended by the FERC. Several state and federal agencies with special expertise or jurisdiction over potentially affected resources participated in the preparation of the DEIS. These cooperating groups include the following federal agencies: Forest Service; Army Corps of Engineers; Environmental Protection Agency; Bureau of Land Management; and Department of Transportation; as well as the Department of Environmental Protection and the Division of Natural Resources in West Virginia. A copy of the DEIS may be viewed on the FERC eLibrary or on the MVP website under the News & Info tab.

# FERC Public Meetings Held Along Proposed Route

In an effort to engage communities and stakeholders, the FERC hosted six public meetings to address the DEIS along the proposed route, allowing interested parties to submit verbal comments to the public record. These meetings were held in Lewis, Nicholas, and Monroe Counties in West Virginia, and Pittsylvania, Franklin, and Roanoke Counties in Virginia on the evenings of November 1, 2, and 3, 2016. Many residents and business leaders in both West Virginia and Virginia attended the meetings to make comments in support of the MVP project.

Transcripts of the comments provided at the meetings were filed on the docket and are accessible on the FERC eLibrary website. In addition to the public meetings, the FERC will accept comments regarding the DEIS until December 22, 2016. Once the comments are addressed, the FERC will issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), anticipated to arrive on March 10, 2017, which will then be reviewed by the FERC and a decision on whether to authorize the MVP will follow.

# Local Government and Community Outreach

The MVP project team has been diligent in outreach efforts, including working closely with local government organizations along the proposed route. The team regularly meets with government officials and business organizations in West Virginia and Virginia to gather feedback and provide updates. The MVP team participated in the West Virginia Chamber's 2016 Annual Summit and Business Meeting in August, taking the opportunity to engage business leaders across the state and educate them regarding the proposed project.

Safety is a top priority for MVP and in an effort to ensure continued safe operations, we are working to meet with county emergency responders along the proposed route. The project team has met with multiple volunteer fire departments in West Virginia, and plan to meet with the remaining departments in the state, as well as responders in Virginia, to discuss pipeline safety throughout the remainder of 2016 and beginning of 2017.

#### **MVP Files Updated Route Alignment**

On October 13, 2016, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC filed an updated route alignment with the FERC. The updated MVP route, now roughly 303 miles, comes after lengthy stages of planning and development, studying and surveying, and in-depth evaluation of the information necessary to determine and design a route that will protect environmentally sensitive areas and preserve cultural and historic resources, as well as have the least overall impact to landowners and communities.

Over the course of the pre-filing period, the project team considered more than 1,000 miles of alternatives and variations to the initially proposed route, which led to the route filed in the October 2015 formal application to FERC. After the formal filing, the project team continued civil and environmental surveys and MVP has worked diligently to address the comments, considerations, and concerns of landowners, community members, government agencies, and local elected officials.

In the DEIS, the FERC included MVP's adoption of 11 route alternative segments and 572 minor route adjustments that were filed at various times since the initial application was submitted. The majority of these updates were based on various landowner requests, avoidance of sensitive and/or cultural and historic resources, or engineering considerations. Additionally, after analyzing and evaluating survey information during the past 12 months, there have been more than 130 minor route deviations

as requested by landowners during the survey period, demonstrating the importance of accessing landowners' properties to conduct survey activities.

# MVP's October 2016 Proposed Route incorporates many benefits to communities, landowners, and the environment, including:

- Adding a new tap for Roanoke Gas in Montgomery
  County, Virginia and increasing the preliminary volume
  of the Roanoke Gas tap in Franklin County, Virginia, in
  order to provide additional gas service to consumers
  and businesses in southwestern Virginia
- Incorporating the Mount Tabor Variation, which minimizes the crossing of the Mount Tabor sinkhole plain, as well as avoids properties of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and The Nature Conservancy
- Eliminating two crossings of the Blackwater River, one of which is upstream of an intake for the Rocky Mount Water Department, which will decrease any potential impact on public drinking water
- Reducing the amount of karst features crossed by the Project and reducing impacts on the North Fork Rural Historic District
- Avoiding environmentally sensitive areas, including Canoe Cave in Giles County, Virginia
- Addressing areas with potential constructability issues to enable Mountain Valley to construct the safest and most reliable pipeline possible

## **Safe Winter Travel**

Over the river and through the woods – the season for holiday travel is upon us. Safety is a top priority for MVP and we want to help keep our communities safe as they prepare for traveling in winter conditions. In order to be prepared for unexpected travel delays or incidents, folks living in cold climates are often advised to keep safety kits in their cars during the winter months. To assemble your winter travel safety kit, we recommend you include the following:

- Jumper cables and a spare tire
- · Flashlights and emergency signaling
- Extra food and water

- Blankets and warm clothing, especially socks
- Rescue tools and first aid kits
- Shovels and cat litter for increased traction

## **Natural Gas in Our Daily Lives**

In 2015, approximately 27.5 trillion cubic feet of natural gas was consumed for power generation, resident, industrial, and commercial uses. While many consumers knowingly heat and cool their homes and prepare meals with their cooktop or oven, they often utilize natural gas every day without realizing it! The average routine for most Americans often begins and ends with a petroleum-based product – from the ringing alarm clock and brewing coffeepot, to the daily commute and handy smart phone, and finally, ending the day with toothbrushes and facial cleanser – natural gas plays a role in the manufacturing of all.



#### **Power generation**

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports electric power generation fueled by natural gas is on the rise, estimated to contribute approximately 34% of the United States' electricity generated through the end of 2016. The clean-burning efficiency of natural gas has prompted many states to increase the number of natural gas-fueled power plants; Virginia currently has the highest growth rate, with an estimated 2.3 Gigawatts of gas-fired capacity being constructed between 2016-2018, which can be supported by the proposed pipeline projects across the region.

## **Household products**

There are petroleum-based products everywhere we look – even in our own homes. In your kitchen, the cooking utensils, cleaning products, and trash bags were all produced using oil or natural gas as a feedstock. The bathroom and bedroom boast just as many products – plastic bottles, medications, synthetic fibers used for carpets and clothing, and cosmetics are all developed from materials containing oil derivatives. Televisions and other communication and entertainment devices also use oil and natural gas as an integral component in manufacturing.





#### Vehicle fuel

The influx of natural gas supply over the past decade has prompted many car manufacturers to evaluate their ability to add compressed natural gas (CNG) to their vehicles as an alternative fuel source. Many companies and mass transit organizations have turned to CNG as a cost-effective and environmentally responsible way to fuel their fleets. An Alternative Fuels Data Center study states there are more than 15 million vehicles powered by natural gas worldwide due to their long-range efficiency and environmentally friendly, clean-burning attributes.

# Stay Safe this Winter

READ OUR TRAVEL TIPS INSIDE



# Your feedback is important

- Please visit the MVP website for news stories, project updates, and to access the FERC filings:
  - » www.mountainvalleypipeline.info

- Contact Mountain Valley Pipeline
  - » www.mountainvalleypipeline.info
  - » Call us toll-free: 844-MVP-TALK
  - » Send us an email:
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