

### Our project newsletter to stakeholders

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

#### FERC Issues Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

On Friday, October 13, 2017, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. This Certificate follows more than

three years of project planning, development, and review; and it recognizes the clear public need for this important energy infrastructure project. The MVP team has worked diligently with stakeholders, including landowners, community members, local officials, and state and federal agencies, to identify the best possible route for the proposed 303-mile underground pipeline. The Certificate comes after a Final Environment Impact Statement (FEIS), issued in June 2017, which concluded that adverse environmental impacts from construction/operation would be reduced to less-thansignificant levels with the implementation of FERC-recommended mitigation measures. The FEIS also noted MVP's adoption of hundreds of route adjustments, the majority of which were based on various landowner requests, avoidance of sensitive and/or cultural and historic resources, or engineering considerations.

Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley) appreciates the strong support that the project has received throughout the communities of Virginia and West Virginia. With an in-service date targeted for late 2018, Mountain Valley looks forward to responsibly meeting public demand for clean, affordable natural gas along the route, and in the growing demand markets of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Southeast regions of the United States.



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#### **Construction along the Route**

Mountain Valley has received authorization from the FERC to begin tree felling and construction activities along portions of the route – and this work has already begun in West Virginia and Virginia. The development of MVP's construction schedule considers many variables, including regulatory requirements, specific measures to protect sensitive species, and weather conditions, among other factors. Given the flexible nature of the construction schedule, the project team will make every effort to notify landowners before entering your property to begin construction.

In order to safely and efficiently construct the MVP, the project is being divided into multiple portions, also known as "spreads," that will be constructed simultaneously. Each spread will be comprised of highly skilled crews tasked with completing their own portion of the construction process. To learn more about pipeline construction, please turn to the *Construction Techniques* section on page 3.

During construction of the MVP, communities along the pipeline route may notice an increase in the amount of traffic and people in and around their towns – and while this may seem like a temporary inconvenience, it will ultimately provide many benefits to the local economy. An increased number of workers in the region will provide steady business for hotels, campgrounds, and restaurants throughout the region.

The MVP project team is committed to working safely and respectfully and we thank you for your cooperation as construction progresses.

#### **Economic Benefits along the Route**

An economic impact analysis conducted by FTI Consulting found that the construction and operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline will bring multiple economic benefits to the states and communities along the pipeline route, which may include:

- Construction spending benefits :: Expenditures on goods and services that support job creation along with economic benefits to local suppliers, their employees, and the overall economy
- **Operational benefits** :: The skilled workforce required to operate and maintain the pipeline post-construction
- Direct-use benefits :: The pipeline could enhance gas service already available, help enable new gas service, and expand opportunities for commercial and manufacturing activities

The MVP project team anticipates directly spending a combined \$1.2 billion on goods and services in Virginia and West Virginia during the construction of the pipeline – which in turn, will translate into an estimated 3,400 indirect and induced jobs in the two states. At the peak of construction the MVP project could support approximately 5,400 jobs directly related to the physical construction of the pipeline across Virginia and West Virginia.

During construction, the project could generate a collective additional tax revenue of more than \$80 million in Virginia and West Virginia to support critical programs and community focused initiatives along the route. In addition, a combined \$24 million in ad valorem taxes could be generated annually in both states while the pipeline is in service.

#### **Tree Felling on Personal Property**

The MVP project team has worked diligently with landowners throughout the pipeline routing and planning process and we fully respect the rights of these landowners; however, Mountain Valley does not encourage tree cutting or vegetation clearing along portions of the right of way intended for the construction and operation of the pipeline facilities. Tree cutting, vegetation clearing, and other ground disturbance activities along the route may conflict with laws and regulations intended to protect wetlands, water quality, and wildlife – and the project team is committed to complying with these laws and other measures meant to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of construction activities.

### **Construction Techniques**

#### **Clearing, Grading, and Trenching**

Before construction of the pipeline occurs, surveys must be conducted and the crew must clear the area by removing trees, large rocks, and debris from the right-of-way. After clearing occurs, grading takes place to prepare a level surface for heavy construction activity. Equipment is then mobilized to dig the trench for placement of the pipe. As dirt is removed, the topsoil and subsoil are often saved for later use in the restoration process.

#### Stringing, Welding, and Coating Pipeline

Pipelines typically consist of pipe segments that are 40 to 80 feet long. These segments must be moved to the trench location, assembled, and welded before being placed in the trench. A bending machine will be utilized to make bends in the pipe to allow the pipeline to conform to unique topography of each segment of pipe along the route. Pipe segments are welded together to ensure maximum strength and integrity of the pipeline, and when necessary, an external coating will be applied to prevent moisture from causing any type of possible corrosion. The MVP team will X-ray 100% of the individual welds to ensure the integrity and longevity of the pipeline prior to placing the line in-service.

#### Depositing, Backfilling, and Testing

Once the pipeline is properly and accurately welded, it is lowered into the trench using equipment with side-booms and slings to prevent the pipe from falling. When the pipe is successfully laid, the construction crew will begin to backfill the trench. The pipe will then we covered by a minimum of three feet of soil, which surpasses the required minimum of 30 inches as regulated by the Department of



Transportation. Careful measures are taken to ensure the topsoil is returned to its original position, while special precaution is given to preserving the integrity of the pipeline and coating during this process. Before placing the pipeline in-service, the line is water-pressure tested as a final quality assurance test.

#### Restoration

The final step of the construction process is to restore the right-of-way and easement property as closely as possible to its original condition. Steps in this process may include; replacing topsoil, removing rocks, spreading fertilizer, or restoring fences. The MVP team will work with landowners and agencies to ensure the proper restoration of both private and public property.

#### Spring Safety Tip: Smoke Detectors

As spring rolls around and the cleaning commences – do not forget to inspect your home's smoke detectors. A regular maintenance routine is vital to ensuring the device will work properly in the event of an emergency. Homeowners should change the batteries in smoke alarms in the fall and spring seasons – in fact, they should be replaced every time the clocks are changed to and from daylight saving time. Homeowners should thoroughly clean and test the alarms bi-monthly and devices should be replaced every 10 years. Time to change the batteries in your smoke alarm READ MORE ABOUT THIS ESSENTIAL SAFETY ADVICE ON PAGE 3



# 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
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  - » Send us an email: <u>mail@mountainvalleypipeline.info</u>



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