



Our project newsletter to stakeholders

We are pleased to provide you with the second newsletter for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

Tell me what's new since the April 2015 newsletter . . .

Since our last issue, MVP held two additional open houses for landowners regarding several alternative routes being considered. These open houses were held on April 6, in Craig County, and on April 7, in Monroe County. Later that month, on April 17, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its

Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the MVP project and provided notice of the public scoping period and associated meetings. Between May 4 and May 14, the FERC held six of these scoping meetings along the proposed route.

The MVP project team has filed draft Resource Reports with the FERC over the past few months. Final versions of the Resource Reports will be included as part of the formal application later this year – based on continued input from agencies and stakeholders, as well as on information from surveys. These surveys, which will continue in both Virginia and West Virginia throughout the summer, are critical to understanding environmental, cultural, historical, and geological features along the route that could impact constructability or require route modifications and mitigation to minimize impacts. The goal, ultimately, is to develop a final proposed route that has the least overall impact to landowners, the environment, and cultural and historic resources.

The official scoping period has ended, how are comments managed and what are the next steps?

As valuable stakeholders, and appreciated community members to the Mountain Valley Pipeline project, we are extremely grateful for the magnitude of interest and input presented during our official scoping period. Your continued early involvement is encouraged and crucial to identifying important matters that will contribute to the topics discussed in the final Resource Reports submitted to the FERC and in the EIS. We are committed to addressing your comments and concerns. The thoughtfulness and volume of your contributions has been invaluable, as we received more than 2,000 written comments during this stage.

Our team strategically examines all comments, and then codes, classifies, and enters them into categories to correspond with our twelve Resource Report topics. When drafting the EIS, the FERC studies each Resource Report extensively, and utilizes your feedback to direct the discussion in a way that is applicable to the project. On June 30, 2015, MVP filed responses to the stakeholder

comments received during scoping. Because the overall size of this project is considerable, in order to assure all inquiries are properly reviewed, assessed, and addressed, the FERC allows stakeholders and interested parties the opportunity to continue to comment on the docket, as well as comment on the future draft and final EIS, throughout the duration of the application process.

As influential, involved stakeholders, you are permitted to access comments, responses, and project filings via the FERC website. We recognize that further comments are likely to be posted to the docket, in which case, we will review, log, and provide supplemental responses to any newly introduced concerns. Most importantly, we are going to evolve the MVP project the right way, and want to work with all parties to ensure we are building this pipeline safely and responsibly. We respect the concerns and opinions of community members, welcome ongoing feedback, and wholly look forward to partnering with your communities for years to come.

What regulatory approvals are required for the project to proceed?

The Mountain Valley Pipeline project will obtain necessary regulatory authorizations from the FERC, which is the federal agency with primary jurisdiction for the siting and operation of U.S. interstate natural gas pipeline projects. In addition to its FERC certificate application, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC will seek review from numerous other federal and state agencies, including, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state Department of Environmental Protection, as well as other state and local agencies.

During the FERC pre-filing process and certificate application periods, the FERC will conduct a thorough review of the project, evaluating the need, proposed facility locations, and overall impacts of the construction. The FERC process and the permitting processes of other federal and state agencies will allow interested stakeholders multiple opportunities to comment on the proposed pipeline project. The MVP project will comply with all U.S. Department of Transportation safety requirements.

What impact will the project have on landowners and how are the proposed and alternative routes chosen?

The route selection process is conducted in a deliberate and thoughtful manner, utilizing experience and expertise of industry professionals – with the ultimate goal of designing a route that will minimize impact on the environment, landowners, and communities, while considering a number of factors, including landowner concerns, environmental issues, cultural resources, and constructability. With that in mind, the originally proposed route, along with various alternative routes, continues to be surveyed and evaluated.

As the final route is not yet determined, it is too soon to know how many property owners will be affected; however, we have received survey permission from the majority of property owners along the currently identified routes. We requested survey permissions within what we call a “study corridor” – which is approximately 300’ wide. This survey corridor is larger than a permanent easement would be; as it is important to study a wider area to fully understand and capture all of the physical features found along the route, which helps to identify any protected resources and potential constructability issues.

What is the process and timeline for right-of-way acquisition?

After centerline surveying and initial routing is complete, a member of the MVP project team will personally contact each landowner to discuss the potential route crossing their property. Additional details on the construction process and the easement agreement would be discussed in-depth, and they would receive factual information to address any concerns. Once all landowner’s questions and concerns are identified and they are comfortable moving forward, we would compensate each landowner for the right-of-way access and any surface disturbances, which are negotiated and determined on an individual property basis.

How is fair market value determined?

For the privilege of establishing a permanent easement across a property owner’s land, a fair value is determined based on market value principles and actual number of acres required for the project. We would obtain a permanent easement; however, each landowner would retain ownership and use of his or her land. Additional compensation would be made for any disturbance to crops, grazing lands, timber, or structures that may occur as a direct result of the construction and/or maintenance of the pipeline.

What kinds of farming activity are permitted, and what kinds of equipment are allowed to cross the easement? Are there weight limits for machinery and trucks crossing the easement?

In general, pipeline easements allow light vehicles, including farm equipment, to access and cross the pipeline with no extra precautions. Additionally, the pipeline easements can include provisions to allow for existing land use activities to continue. For instance, if the property is currently used for agricultural purposes, these activities can normally continue after the pipeline is constructed. If the current activities are forestry or mining that use heavy equipment, then the easement agreement can include provisions for roads and heavy equipment crossings. If these or other activities occur after the pipeline is constructed, they can be addressed on a case-by-case basis with our engineering group to ensure adequate protection and safety.

Representatives from the MVP project team would work with the landowner to understand post-construction land use activity and would design the proposed pipeline construction in order to allow use of the easement for farming activity and to identify specific areas where heavy machinery could cross the easement without damaging the pipeline.

Let's talk about natural gas pipeline safety.



During the last several months of meeting with landowners and talking with community members – the topic of safety has emerged as a key concern among our Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project neighbors and communities.

“The initial reaction of a large safety concern from people who are unfamiliar with the nation’s extensive transmission pipeline network is understandable, but the irony is that the natural gas transmission industry has such a strong safety record that many don’t realize how often they live, work and play near or above pipelines,” said Shawn Posey, Senior Vice President, Mountain Valley Pipeline Engineering and Construction. “The reason for the strong safety record is that those of us who build and operate pipelines take every precaution to protect the integrity of our pipelines, assure peoples’ safety and protect the environment. It’s not an exaggeration to state that the level of seriousness we take to pipeline safety far surpasses the concern of the most skeptical local resident or landowner.”

The National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), report that natural gas pipelines have the best safety record of any energy delivery system, including rail, in the U.S.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, more than 200 interstate natural gas transmission pipeline systems transport energy across more than 300,000 miles of transmission pipelines nationwide. In Virginia, there are more than 2,500 miles of existing pipeline infrastructure; and in West Virginia there are close to 4,000 miles.

The MVP project includes a proposed underground, interstate natural gas pipeline that when complete will transport natural gas from the Marcellus and Utica shale regions through West Virginia and Virginia to energy consumers along its approximately 300-mile route and then access existing infrastructure to provide natural gas to the nation’s Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions.

The project is subject to approval and regulatory oversight from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

“Local residents have said they worry about possible leaks and accidents; that construction could have an adverse impact on the environment; and that the pipeline may not be adequately monitored, said Posey. “It is extremely important for MVP to inform the communities of how safety is addressed in the design and operations of a transmission pipeline.”

Project planners start by surveying proposed routes and all major alternatives. Surveys help to avoid sensitive or protected areas when feasible, including wetlands, endangered species and habitats; as well as limit surface disturbance by minimizing impacts on the environment. In some locations, the pipeline can be co-located with pre-existing utility transmission corridors. Erosion and sediment control plans, among other environmental plans, are developed and adhered to during construction and reclamation to mitigate construction impacts.

Even seismic activity is considered. Following a geologic seismic analysis, if seismic activity emerges as a possible threat to a pipeline segment, proactive measures can be taken such as increasing inspection patrols, adding extra protective industrial padding, and taking additional material design factors into consideration.

Prior to a pipeline being ready for in-service operations, engineers design and oversee a series of tests to confirm integrity and operational safety, which are verified according to U.S. DOT regulations. One test involves pumping water through the line at higher pressures than are used for the gas to assure that the pipe can withstand the pressure. All pipeline welds are individually X-rayed to assure construction integrity. Internal inspection tools are also pushed through the pipeline with nitrogen to evaluate the mechanical properties.

Once transmission begins, operators use sophisticated technologies and system analysis to monitor pipeline gas pressure at all the mainline valves in real time 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This monitoring ensures that pressure and flow operate at safe, normal levels. Pipeline and compressor stations automatically shut down if elevated levels are detected, or any other problems are identified.

Above ground, easements allow light vehicles and agricultural equipment to access and cross the pipeline without having extra precautions, allowing landowners to resume the majority of their prior land-use activities. Where heavy equipment is required, pipeline operators work with landowners to create plans and easement agreements that allow for roads and heavy equipment crossings.

At least once per year, the pipeline operator meets with local emergency responders to review established first-response plans.

The safety of our communities, our employees, our contractors, and our pipeline will always remain a top priority. This is the standard we live by every day, reinforcing what we mean when we say we’re completely committed to building the Mountain Valley Pipeline safely and responsibly. Nothing is more important to us.

Your feedback is important

- In order to access our project filings and leave comments, please visit the FERC website at:
 - » http://elibrary/ferc.gov/idmws/docket_search.asp
 - » Reference the docket number PF15-3
- Contact Mountain Valley Pipeline
 - » www.mountainvalleypipeline.info
 - » Call us toll-free: 844-MVP-TALK
 - » Send us an email:
mail@mountainvalleypipeline.info



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