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August 2, 2018

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC
Docket No. CP16-10-000
Update on Construction within the Jefferson National Forest

Dear Ms. Bose:

On July 27, 2018, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit issued an order vacating and remanding decisions issued by the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management for the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project.

Mountain Valley's crossing of the Jefferson National Forest consists of two segments of right-of-way totaling approximately 3.6 miles:

- The Peters Mountain Segment includes approximately 9,211 feet of right-of-way in Giles County, Virginia and 558 feet in Monroe County, West Virginia. To date, Mountain Valley has only hand-felled trees in the Peters Mountain Segment. The felled trees remain in the right-of-way. There has been no significant ground disturbance. The stumps and roots remain in place, which stabilizes the right-of-way. The Peters Mountain Segment also includes Pocahontas and Mystery Ridge Roads, which have been exposed to light vehicular traffic. Erosion and sediment control devices are installed along the roads and regular maintenance activity is ongoing.
- The Sinking Creek and Brush Mountain Segment includes approximately 9,810 feet of right-of-way in Montgomery County, Virginia. The Sinking Creek and Brush Mountain Segment is non-contiguous—it is separated by private property where the right-of-way crosses Craig Creek. The entire segment has been cleared, graded, and prepared for construction. All of the pipe necessary to complete the segment has been strung and bent along the right-of-way in preparation for welding for this entire segment. The trench has not been dug and the pipe has not been installed in the ground.
 - On Brush Mountain, Mountain Valley has welded a total of 1,290 feet of pipe. The welded pipe is in five sections. Each section of welded pipe has been temporarily secured to the hillside with an anchoring clamp to limit movement while the trench is excavated. On the top of Brush Mountain there are (i) 20 loose joints totaling approximately 800 feet of pipe as well as (ii) one welded four-joint section. In addition to the welded sections, a total of 79 joints (approximately 3,160 feet of pipe) have been strung and bent and are sitting on skids waiting to be welded. An anchoring clamp has been placed or pipe has been tied to skids in areas of steep slopes.

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose

August 2, 2018

Page 2 of 2

- On Sinking Creek Mountain, no welding has occurred to date. A total of 114 joints (approximately 4,560 feet of pipe) have been strung and bent and are sitting on skids. Due to the steepness of the slopes on the mountain, the pipe has been strung in four groups going up the mountain, which eliminates the need for anchors. This technique allows for safer welding and trenching operations in these steep areas.

Mountain Valley has suspended construction progress within the Jefferson National Forest and is limiting activity in the forest to maintaining environmental controls and protecting the safety of the right-of-way. Mountain Valley is working with the agencies to determine the path forward in light of the Court's decision.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (412) 553-5786 or meggerding@eqt.com. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE, LLC
by and through its operator,
EQM Gathering Opco, LLC

By: 

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Senior Counsel, Midstream

cc: All Parties
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