



# Our project newsletter to stakeholders

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

## FERC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement

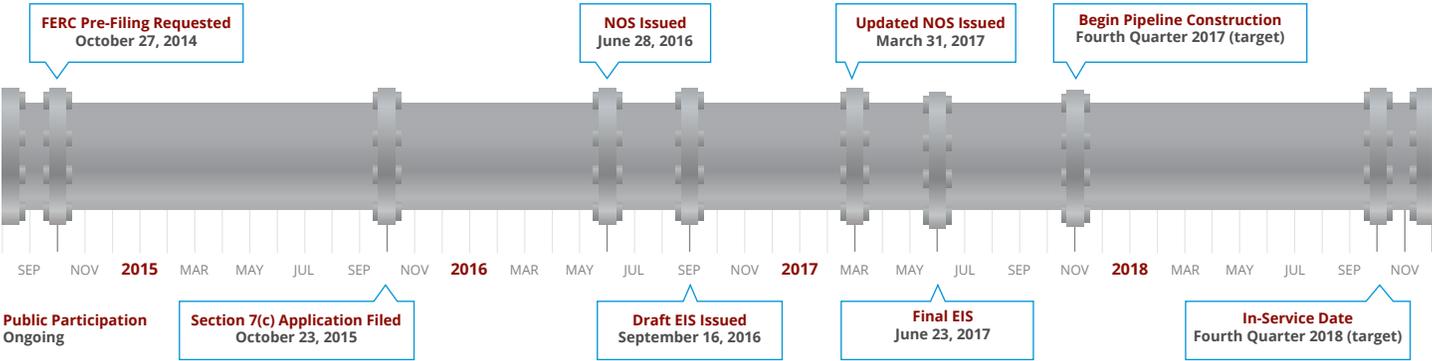
On Friday, June 23, 2017, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project. This FEIS comes after three years of project planning and development, and takes into account recommendations from and responses to the FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

issued in September 2016. The FEIS also considers and includes the analyzed data from 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 303-mile route. With that, it is important to note that since the project's inception, MVP has adopted 14 route alternative segments and more than 700 minor route adjustments, the majority of which were based on various landowner requests, avoidance of sensitive and/or cultural and historic resources, or engineering considerations.

In the FEIS, FERC staff have concluded that construction and operation of the MVP would result in some adverse environmental impacts; however, the majority of these impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. As part of the FERC review, specific mitigation measures were developed in order to appropriately and reasonably reduce the environmental impacts resulting from construction and operation of the pipeline; therefore, these mitigation measures are being recommended as conditions to any authorization issued by the Commission.

The FERC staff, MVP project team, and members of numerous other federal and state agencies have been continuously engaging with landowners, businesses, nonprofit groups, and community members in an effort to accurately evaluate, develop, and revise plans for the proposed MVP pipeline. These efforts have produced a thoughtfully designed route and led to the development of comprehensive plans to mitigate any potential impacts to the greatest extent possible. In addition, MVP has secured 2 Bcf per day of firm transmission capacity commitments at 20-year terms, which will support communities along the route, as well as the growing demand markets of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Southeast regions of the United States.

The MVP team appreciates the strong support that the project has received throughout the communities of Virginia and West Virginia and remains committed to responsibly meeting public demand for clean, affordable natural gas.



## Tribal info

In the early stages of planning and development, the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project team began coordinating with several Native American tribes in order to keep them advised of MVP's progress as portions of the proposed route may exist within aboriginal homelands. The MVP project team recognizes the importance of Native American tradition and culture, and we have conducted a thorough cultural review to identify a proposed route with the least amount of impact to potential resources.

The team contacted more than 35 tribes and provided them with the opportunity to learn more about the project and become engaged in the routing and review process. In turn, the tribes also had opportunities to contribute valuable information to the team. Approximately 10 tribes expressed some level of interest in participating early in the process during routing and planning, or later during

the construction phase in the event unanticipated cultural discoveries are found. Several tribes requested, and have been provided, full cultural resource survey reports for their areas of interest. The MVP project team has encouraged the tribes to provide comments and suggestions throughout their report reviews.

The tribes expressed their appreciation to our project team for keeping them informed of the proposed project, as well as our efforts to determine the locations of any archaeological deposits, cultural resources, and historic properties, and our efforts to avoid these sites. The tribes also recognized the efforts of the various contractors who have assisted the MVP project team with archaeological reports, together with the State Historic Preservation Offices of Virginia and West Virginia for their recommendations.

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## Fraudulent Letters along the Proposed Route

Mountain Valley Pipeline has been made aware that Virginia landowners along MVP's proposed pipeline route are receiving what we believe to be fraudulent survey access letters from an alleged entity named Mountains to Sea Pipeline Corp.

Mountain Valley Pipeline has no affiliation with any organization by that name, nor has MVP's initial investigation revealed the existence of any entity by this name registered to do business in Pennsylvania, the state in which the letter claims the entity is located.

Based on MVP's review, we believe the letters to contain false information, including the use of an MVP-related phone number in the letter. We suggest that if you receive a similar letter, you verify the sender and contact information before taking further action.

*If you suspect mail fraud, you can contact the United States Postal Service's Postal Inspection Service hotline at 877-876-2455. You can also alert MVP at 844-MVP-TALK or email us at [mail@mountainvalleypipeline.info](mailto:mail@mountainvalleypipeline.info).*

## Summer Safety Tip: Avoiding Ticks

The recent mild winter will contribute to one of the worst seasons for ticks and tick-related illnesses in decades. While there are different species of ticks all across the United States, two of the most common in West Virginia and Virginia are the blacklegged (deer) tick and the brown dog tick – both of which can carry diseases.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) suggests the best way to escape coming into contact with a tick is to avoid wooded and brushy areas. When it is impossible to do so, please consider the following precautions:

- Wear long pants tucked into socks and long sleeve-shirts
- Consider use of a repellent on your clothing
- Bathe or shower as soon as possible after coming indoors
- Conduct full-body tick checks using a hand-held or full-length mirror
- Check children and pets for ticks when they come indoors
- Tumble clothes in a dryer on high heat for 10 minutes to kill ticks on dry clothing

## MVP's Commitment to Safety and Natural Resources

**The Roanoke Valley boasts a number of natural amenities that distinguish the region as a highly desirable place to live, work, and play. The team developing the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline project recognizes the importance of the area's natural resources, and we are committed to preserving those assets for current and future generations to enjoy.**

MVP's proposed 303-mile route from Wetzel County, West Virginia to the Transco line in Pittsylvania County reflects years of research and discussion with state and federal agencies, local officials, non-profit groups, community members, and landowners. These ongoing dialogues have helped to frame and support the overall design objectives for the project, which are to avoid sensitive areas, minimize potential impacts on surrounding areas, and accommodate residents' requests to the greatest extent possible.

While supporters and opponents of the MVP have disagreed on many points, there is also common ground. One such point is that, if approved, the MVP project should, and would, be constructed and operated with the highest priority on safety. It is essential that the MVP is designed in a manner that safeguards members of the construction team and residents in communities along the route.

**Additional common ground is the need to protect natural resources, including the scenic Appalachian Trail. The MVP team fully appreciates its responsibility to respect the environment, and particularly the need to preserve hikers' abilities to use the Appalachian Trail. In fact, the project's plans for crossing the Trail have been specifically designed to allow hikers to pass through the construction area unimpeded.**

By tunneling under the Trail, construction can be done without a direct effect on the Trail; and in response to public feedback, we revised and pared down the width of the temporary construction right-of-way to 125 feet.

Despite what some have asserted regarding the viewshed impact, in actuality, MVP has a much narrower, 50-foot wide permanent right-of-way that would be preserved as a greenway along the majority of the route.

Extensive observation points throughout the region have been evaluated with several hundred photographs captured for project impact evaluation. Official route renderings and simulations submitted to the FERC show that this greenway would indeed be visible from a distance of a few miles at a limited number of those observation points. It is unlikely, however, that hikers will be able to discern the greenway – even through bare trees – from key points along the Appalachian Trail, such as at McAfee Knob or Sinking Creek Mountain.

While we understand the FERC's process for review of interstate pipeline projects can seem cumbersome and complex, especially in the context of a 303-mile project, it is critical that this information is evaluated and reviewed due to the many technical considerations. Through the course of the review process, tens of thousands of project-related pages have been filed. It's important to note that a large majority of the updated filings were necessary in order to incorporate adjustments from individual landowners and general public feedback. MVP is and has been adopting project modifications to address public concerns.

The MVP team has worked diligently to comply with the regulatory review process and continues to provide requested information in a thorough and timely manner. The FERC has received, and continues to accept, public comments on the project through its website and the U.S. Postal Service.

Demand for natural gas is expected to continue growing and construction of the MVP project is crucial for local gas distributors such as Roanoke Gas Company to meet customers' needs. Roanoke Gas has announced its intention to tap into the MVP line in Montgomery County and in Franklin County. The Franklin tap would represent the first supply of natural gas to reach that county, providing a tremendous opportunity for economic development and job creation. As an open-access pipeline, Roanoke Gas and other distributors will have the option to install additional taps in the future, providing opportunities for additional economic growth.

We appreciate the many people, businesses, and groups who have expressed support for the project and for their work to help us refine the current route. By working together to identify the best possible route for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, we can provide the fuel needed to spur economic development and ensure that any potentially adverse effects are limited.

The MVP team remains committed to safely and responsibly providing clean, affordable, domestic natural gas to homes and businesses across this region.

*Published by Shawn Posey, Senior VP, Mountain Valley Pipeline Engineering & Construction, The Roanoke Times, May 28, 2017*

# August 11 is National 811 Day

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



## *Your feedback is important*

- Please visit the MVP website for news stories, project updates, and to access the FERC filings:
  - » [www.mountainvalleypipeline.info](http://www.mountainvalleypipeline.info)
- Contact Mountain Valley Pipeline
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