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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Office of Energy Projects

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Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC Docket No. PF15-3-000  
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MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

Nicholas County High School  
30 Grizzly Road  
Summersville, WV 26651  
Wednesday May 13, 2015

The evening scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,  
convened at 7 p.m, before a Staff Panel:

PAUL FRIEDMAN, Environmental Project Manager,  
FERC

ALEX DANKANICH, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

With:

LAVINIA DiSANTO, Cardno

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: My name is Paul Friedman and I am  
3 the Environmental Project Manager for this project for the  
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, that's FERC or  
5 Commission. The FERC is reviewing a project proposed by the  
6 Mountain Valley Pipeline Company, and they want to build a  
7 300-mile pipeline across West Virginia and part of Virginia,  
8 and we are going to write an environmental impact statement  
9 that analyzes the impacts of construction operation of that  
10 pipeline. My office is in Washington, D.C., but we've come  
11 out here to do public scoping to take environmental comments  
12 on the proposal.

13 Let the record show that this meeting began at 7  
14 o'clock sharp p.m. on Wednesday, May 13th, 2015, in Nicholas  
15 County, West Virginia.

16 As you may have noticed that a court reporter is  
17 transcribing this meeting. That is so we can have an  
18 accurate record of tonight's comments. The FERC has a  
19 transcription contract with Ace-Federal Reporters. If you  
20 wish to obtain a copy of the transcript prior to its  
21 placement in the our public files at FERC, you must make  
22 arrangements directly with Ace and they'll tell you the cost  
23 of that transcript. Later, the transcript will be put in  
24 FERC's eLibrary system, which I'll talk about later, about  
25 15 days after we receive it from Ace.

1 (Slide presentation)

2 The goal of my team is to write an environmental  
3 impact statement or EIS for the project. The FERC team  
4 would consist of interdisciplinary specialists in fields,  
5 including engineers, biologists, geologists and  
6 archaeologists. To expand our staff's capabilities, we use  
7 a contractor, which is Cardno.

8 Sitting at the desk with me here is Lavinia  
9 DiSanto; she is the Cardno Project Manager. In the back at  
10 the sign-up table was Doug Monneyhan and Charles Brown.  
11 They also work for Cardno now, although Charlie spent about  
12 37 years at FERC before he went off into private industry.

13 Also in the other room, by the cafeteria, are  
14 representatives from Mountain Valley, so if you have  
15 questions about where your property is in relation to the  
16 pipeline, they can answer that question.

17 Next to me is Alex Dankanich. He is here from  
18 the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
19 of the U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT. The DOT  
20 is a cooperating agency that will assist the FERC in the  
21 production of the EIS. Other cooperating agencies include  
22 the U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the  
23 Environmental Protection Agency, the West Virginia  
24 Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia  
25 Department of Environmental Protection.

1            Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction or special  
2 expertise They can adopt our EIS for their own regulatory  
3 purposes. So for example, the Forest Service will use our  
4 EIS to analyze potential amendments to their forest plan to  
5 allow the pipeline to cross federal lands.

6            The FERC is the lead federal agency for both the  
7 authorization of this project under the Natural Gas Act, and  
8 for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act or  
9 NEPA. To comply with NEPA, FERC will produce an EIS, which  
10 I'll talk about more later.

11           The FERC was originally known as the Federal  
12 Power Commission when it was created by Congress in 1920.  
13 We were reorganized and renamed during the Carter  
14 Administration. The FERC is an independent regulatory  
15 agency. What that means is that a Commission decision  
16 cannot be challenged by either the Executive or Legislative  
17 Branches; however, a FERC decision can be challenged in  
18 court.

19           One of the industries we regulate is the  
20 interstate transportation of natural gas. We also regulate  
21 non-federal hydropower, electric rates and oil rates, but we  
22 do not site either power lines or oil pipelines. We also do  
23 not regulate exploration, production or gathering of natural  
24 gas, or the local distribution of natural gas. Those  
25 activities are regulated by the States.

1           Sp we've heard some comments about hydraulic  
2 fracturing or 'fracking,' which is a method of exploration  
3 and production that FERC does not regulate. If you have  
4 comments on fracking, please address them to the State of  
5 West Virginia.

6           Our agency is directed by five Commissioners who  
7 are appointed by the President of the United States and  
8 approved by the U.S. Congress. There's always three people  
9 from the party in power -- so we have three Democrats;  
10 Chairman Bay, Commissioner Honorable and Commissioner  
11 LeFleur. And we have two Republicans; Commissioner Moeller  
12 and Commissioner Clark.

13           The FERC Staff, like me, are civil servants. We,  
14 the FERC staff, do not make decisions; the Commissioners do  
15 that. But Staff does make recommendations to the  
16 Commissioners, and you can read our recommendations in the  
17 back of the EIS under our conclusions section.

18           Tonight, I'd like to accomplish the following:  
19 I'd like to summarize the project, I'd like to explain the  
20 role of the FERC in the review; I'd like to outline how the  
21 public may participate, and I'd like to allow you, the  
22 public, an opportunity to voice your concerns about the  
23 project.

24           I ask that you reserve all questions or comments  
25 until after my presentation. Recently, last week, we did a

1 meeting in Elliston, Virginia, and the people in the  
2 audience were quite rude, and the booted people they didn't  
3 agree with. But I know that the people of Nicholas County  
4 will show courtesy and be considerate and will respect all  
5 speakers regardless of their points of view.

6 I'd like to clarify that FERC and the cooperating  
7 agencies did not conceive of this project, nor are we  
8 promoting it. The project was designed by a private  
9 company, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, a joint venture be  
10 EQT Corporation and NextEra Energy. We call them the  
11 'Company' or the 'Applicant.' And by the way, all of the  
12 applicants that FERC regulates are all private companies.  
13 We were created by Congress specifically to regulate private  
14 industry.

15 It is the Company that came up with the proposed  
16 location for their facilities, and it's up to FERC staff to  
17 analyze the environmental impacts associated with  
18 construction and operation of those facilities.

19 The FERC is not an advocate for the project.  
20 FERC staff are advocates for the environmental review  
21 process.

22 So, let's review some project background. On  
23 October 27, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its request to  
24 initiate the FERC's pre-filing environmental review process,  
25 which we accepted on October 31st. We gave the project

1 Docket No. PF15-3 -- you'll hear me mention that often  
2 because we need that docket number on all your  
3 correspondence. And we selected Cardno as our third party  
4 contractor.

5           During pre-filing the company is supposed to  
6 communicate with stakeholders to identify issues of concern,  
7 attempt to resolve those issues, and perfect their formal  
8 application to the FERC. Mountain Valley has stated that  
9 they would like to file their application with the FERC in  
10 October of 2015.

11           At the time of application, Mountain Valley must  
12 also file an environmental report that complies with FERC  
13 regulations at Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations CFR  
14 380.12, and addresses such resource topics as, Geology and  
15 Soils, Water and Wetlands, Vegetation and Wildlife, Cultural  
16 Resources, Socioeconomics, Land Use, Air Quality, and Noise  
17 and Safety. During pre-filing, Mountain Valley will file  
18 drafts of those environmental reports into the FERC public  
19 record. Therefore, anyone can review them on our eLibrary  
20 system, and you can comment on them.

21           In December 2014 and January 2015, Mountain  
22 Valley conducted sixteen open houses along the route of the  
23 pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, with two additional  
24 open houses held in April for alternative routes. FERC  
25 Staff attended all of those open houses.

1           On December 1st, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its  
2 first Draft Resource Report One, or project description, and  
3 a summary of alternatives. The FERC Staff issued a data  
4 request on those resource reports on March 13, 2015.

5           On March 25, the FERC issued a project update to  
6 inform the public where we currently were in the prefiling  
7 review process; shows we're in the middle of scoping, and  
8 we're taking comments right now.

9           Mountain Valley filed revised Resource Report One  
10 and First Draft Report Seven, which is Soils; and Resource  
11 Report Eight, which is Land Use, on March 27th. They filed  
12 Resource Report Five, on Socioeconomics; and Resource Report  
13 Eleven on Safety, on April 10. They Revised Resource Report  
14 Ten on April 14th and submitted new Resource Report Three,  
15 which is Vegetation and Wildlife; and a Resource Report  
16 Four, which is Cultural Resources on April 24th.

17           Again. the public can read those reports through  
18 our eLibrary system and they can comment on them.

19           On April 17th, the FERC issued its Notice of  
20 Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, or NOI.  
21 The NOI was sent to our Environmental mailing list; which  
22 includes landowners, elected officials, government agencies,  
23 Indian tribes, environmental groups, nongovernmental  
24 organizations, local libraries and newspapers, and other  
25 interested parties. The NOI announced six public scoping

1 meetings in the project area, of which this is one, and  
2 explained how the public could file scoping comments. The  
3 NOI was also published in the Federal Register on April  
4 28th, 2015.

5           The scoping period will end on June 18th;  
6 however, the Commission will continue to consider comments  
7 up until the time we write our draft EIS. We will use the  
8 comments we received during scoping to shape the content of  
9 the DEIS, which will focus our attention on issues raised  
10 during scoping. We will also consider the comments we  
11 received right after we began prefiling, up until the time  
12 we issued the NOI.

13           The FERC will not send out individual answers to  
14 individual comment letters, but will instead address  
15 environmental issues raised during scoping under general  
16 resource topics in our DEIS.

17           Mountain Valley proposes to construct and operate  
18 a 294-mile long, 42-inch diameter pipeline in West Virginia  
19 and Virginia. The pipeline would originate at the existing  
20 Equitrans system in Wetzel County, West Virginia and  
21 terminate at the existing Transcontinental Pipeline Company,  
22 Zone 5 Compressor Station 165 in Pittsylvania County,  
23 Virginia.

24           Additional facilities would include four new  
25 compressor stations in Wetzel, Braxton and Fayette Counties,

1 West Virginia and Montgomery County, Virginia. The project  
2 is designed to transport about two billion cubic feet per  
3 day of natural gas from production sources in the  
4 Appalachian Basin to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and  
5 Southeastern United States.

6           There is a false rumor being circulated that  
7 natural gas from the project would be exported. This is not  
8 true. Can't happen, and I'll explain why. Mountain Valley  
9 has not applied to either the FERC or the U.S. Department of  
10 Energy for permission to export gas. Without the filed  
11 applications and our authorizations, gas cannot be exported.

12           Mountain Valley has stated that natural gas from  
13 their pipeline is intended for domestic customers who  
14 generate electricity or use gas for local distribution.

15           Pipeline construction can be summarized as  
16 follows: Clearing and grading, trenching, pipe-stringing  
17 and welding, lowering-in and back-filling, and cleanup and  
18 restoration. I've gotten some comments that all of my  
19 pictures are flat. That just happened to be the pictures on  
20 my computer the day I put together the PowerPoint.

21           But believe it or not, the FERC does regulate  
22 pipelines across places like the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra  
23 Nevada, and the Cascades. So yes, we've all seen  
24 construction in mountainous terrain.

25           This slide illustrates the FERC prefiling

1 environmental process. And as I said before, right now  
2 we're in the scoping period. Later during pre-filing, the  
3 FERC will issue data requests to fill in gaps in Mountain  
4 Valley's resource reports, and then Mountain Valley would  
5 revised resource those reports and file its application.

6           During pre-filing, the public has the opportunity  
7 to comment to the FERC about the project. The issuance of  
8 the FERC's NOI is our way of notifying stakeholders and  
9 requesting comments on environmental issues. We urge you to  
10 place your comments into the FERC's official record before  
11 the end of the scoping period. Later I'll talk about how to  
12 submit comments.

13           Other opportunities for the public to comment on  
14 the project occurs after Mountain Valley files its former  
15 application with the FERC. Post-application opportunities  
16 for comments include: in response to our Notice of  
17 Application and in response to our DEIS.

18           Parties may request intervenor status in response  
19 to the Notice of Application. Being and intervenor is a  
20 legal position. Intervenors can request rehearing of a  
21 Commission decision. They also have the burden of serving  
22 all parties with their filings. You do not have to be an  
23 intervenor to have your environmental comments considered.  
24 You cannot intervene during our pre-filing process. You  
25 must wait until after Mountain Valley files its application.

1           If you want to file comments into the  
2 Commission's official record, please follow the directions  
3 given in the public participation portion of the NOI. Do  
4 not send emails to FERC staff. Go on the FERC website,  
5 [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov), click on documents and filings, click on  
6 eFilings and follow the directions.

7           If you have problems you can always contact our  
8 IT support staff, and we have a phone number for that in the  
9 NOI. You may also submit comments the old fashioned way, in  
10 writing, by sending a letter to the Secretary of the  
11 Commission at 888 First Street Northeast, Washington, D.C.  
12 20426. Again, all of this information is in the NOI, You  
13 must put the docket number on all correspondence, PF15-3.

14           You will also have the opportunity to comment  
15 orally at this public scoping meeting. We will be taking  
16 comments from attendees right after my presentation.

17           If you want to sign up and you haven't done so  
18 yet, Charlie and Doug are managing the sign-up list at the  
19 back of the room.

20           Again, we're going to hold written comments as  
21 the same weight as oral comments. So we consider both  
22 equally.

23           The FERC process is fairly transparent. You can  
24 see everything that's filed in the docket by going to our  
25 eLibrary system. Again, that's through the web page,

1 www.ferc.gov. Click on documents and filings, click on  
2 eLibrary. Put in a date range, put in the docket number,  
3 which is PF15-3. To be notified via e-mail of all future  
4 filings in this proceeding, all you need to do is sign up on  
5 our eSubscription service. And again, we have instructions  
6 for that in the NOI.

7           Based on the application and our own research,  
8 the FERC staff and the cooperating agencies will produce an  
9 EIS in accordance with the regulations of the Council of  
10 Environmental Quality or CEQ, at Title 40, CFR Parts 1500-  
11 1508 to satisfy the requirements of the NEPA. That document  
12 will offer our independent analysis of the potential  
13 environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives.  
14 Generally, the EIS will discuss the current environmental,  
15 identify potential project-related impacts on specific  
16 resources, and present proposed measures to avoid, reduce,  
17 or mitigate adverse effects.

18           Once the FERC staff is convinced that the  
19 application is complete and we fully understand the  
20 potential impacts the project might have on the environment,  
21 we will issue a Notice of Schedule for our EIS. In  
22 accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, other federal  
23 agencies would have ninety days after the FERC releases the  
24 Final EIS to issue their permits or approvals.

25           So the Forest Service, for example, would have

1 ninety days after our final EIS to issue its ROD, record of  
2 decision, and the plan amendment for crossing the forest.

3           The FERC Staff will produce a Draft Environmental  
4 Impact Statement before it produces a final, and that would  
5 be circulated for public comment. Copies of the DEIS will  
6 be sent to our Environmental mailing list. And after  
7 mailing the DEIS, FERC staff will come back out to the  
8 project area to hold more public meetings, to take verbal  
9 comments on the DEIS. And we would address all comments on  
10 the DEIS in the FEIS.

11           The Commission would only make its decision after  
12 an Final Environmental Impact Statement has been issued.

13           The EIS will have a section that addresses  
14 pipeline safety. However, it is the Department of  
15 Transportation, not the FERC, that sets standards for  
16 pipeline design, construction and operational safety.

17           To explain the DOT regulations and pipeline  
18 safety program, here's Alex.

19           MR. DANKANICH: Thank you.

20           Good evening. My name is Alex Dankanich, I'm an  
21 engineer and an inspector with the Department of  
22 Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety, which is a  
23 branch of the USDOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
24 Safety Administration, commonly referred to as PHMSA.

25           PHMSA's jurisdiction begins once a project is

1 approved by the FERC. Then PHMSA works to ensure that the  
2 pipeline facilities are designed, constructed, operated and  
3 maintained in compliance with federal safety regulations.

4           If the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project receives  
5 permission from the FERC for this natural gas pipeline  
6 project, PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will provide the  
7 regulations for the construction and safe transportation of  
8 natural gas through the pipeline facilities, and will  
9 maintain regulatory oversight over the safety of the  
10 pipeline and the pipeline facilities throughout its  
11 operation.

12           PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will perform  
13 safety inspections on the natural gas pipeline facilities as  
14 well as on the plans, procedures, records to ensure that the  
15 design and construction are in compliance with Title 49,  
16 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192, which are the federal  
17 safety standards for the transportation of natural gas by  
18 pipeline.

19           This oversight includes inspections which ensure  
20 that code-compliant materials are used in the construction  
21 process; ensures that welding is performed in accordance  
22 with the federal standards, and by qualified welders.

23           To ensure that the pipeline is installed to the  
24 required depth, that it is protected from corrosion, that it  
25 pipeline contains pressure-limiting devices, and is properly

1 tested before use.

2 Beyond the construction process, PHMSA will  
3 continue to conduct periodic inspections of the operation  
4 and maintenance requirements that are outlined in Title 49  
5 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192.

6 The operator must establish comprehensive written  
7 procedures describing the types and frequency of monitoring  
8 to ensure that the continued safe operation of the pipeline  
9 is performed.

10 If our safety inspections find inadequate  
11 procedures or that the operator is not following these  
12 procedures, PHMSA is authorized to require remedial actions  
13 and we are authorized to assess civil penalties upon the  
14 operator.

15 Safety is PHMSA's primary mission, and we  
16 understand how important that mission is to your community.  
17 If this project is approved, then PHMSA will work to ensure  
18 that the pipeline facilities are designed, constructed,  
19 operated and maintained in compliance with federal pipeline  
20 safety regulations.

21 Thank you for this opportunity to provide an  
22 overview of PHMSA's pipeline safety program.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Alex.

24 So the EIS that the FERC produces with our  
25 cooperating agencies would not be a final decision document.

1 The EIS is prepared to advise the commissioners and to  
2 disclose to the public the environmental impacts associated  
3 with constructing and operating the project.

4 The Commissioners will consider our environmental  
5 analysis together with other staff's materials pertaining to  
6 non-environmental issues before making an informed decision  
7 about the project.

8 The Commission has the option of accepting the  
9 proposal in whole or in part, approving the proposal with or  
10 without conditions, or denying the application altogether.

11 The final decision by the Commissioners will be  
12 issued as what we call a Project Order. It is the Project  
13 Order, not the EIS, that would make a finding of public  
14 benefit.

15 If the Project is authorized, the Commission  
16 would issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and  
17 Necessity to Mountain Valley. Before the Commissioners  
18 decide to authorize it, they would base their decision on  
19 their own Certificate Policy Statement that established the  
20 criteria for determining whether or not there was a need for  
21 a project.

22 If the Commission decides to authorize the  
23 project, the FERC staff will make certain that the  
24 environmental conditions appended to the Project Order are  
25 satisfied. Those conditions usually include a stipulation

1 that the Company must obtain all other necessary federal  
2 permits and authorizations prior to construction. Such as,  
3 a Section 401 of the Clean Water Act water quality  
4 certificate, or a 404 certificate from the Corps of  
5 Engineers for crossing wetlands and water bodies.

6 The Company must implement all of the measures  
7 they committed to on their application and their mitigation  
8 programs. FERC Staff and our contractor will monitor the  
9 project through construction, restoration and the completion  
10 of mitigation programs. We will perform on-site inspections  
11 for compliance with the environmental conditions of the  
12 order.

13 Now is the time for public comments. Let me  
14 emphasize that this is not a hearing on the merits of the  
15 proposal. Other Commission staff will consider the economic  
16 need for this project and the rates to be charged for  
17 service.

18 As I said earlier, this meeting provides you, the  
19 public, an opportunity to comment on the type of  
20 environmental issues that you would like to see the FERC  
21 staff concentrate on when we write our EIS. The more  
22 specific your comments are about potential environmental  
23 impacts, the more useful they will be to FERC Staff. Just  
24 saying you're for or against the project is not particularly  
25 useful.

1           This is not a question and answer session; I am  
2 here just to listen to your comments.. We will address all  
3 questions and your comments raised during scoping in the EIS  
4 after we have conducted the appropriate research.

5           There are some ground rules about decorum during  
6 this meeting. Please treat all other speakers with respect,  
7 whether you agree with them or not. No booing, cheering,  
8 applauding or yelling out. If the audience becomes unruly  
9 or I believe there is a public safety issue, I reserve the  
10 right to close the meeting.

11           We will take speakers one at a time, according to  
12 the numbers we've handed out. Each speaker will have three  
13 minutes. Up here we have a child's toy, it's a stoplight;  
14 it is green for two and a half minutes, it's yellow for 30  
15 seconds; and at 3 minutes it turns red. At that time when  
16 it turns red, I'd like you to yield the floor to the next  
17 speaker.

18           The reason we are limiting comments tonight to  
19 only three minutes is because that's what we've done for all  
20 the other meetings, some of which were heavily attended; and  
21 we needed to move people right along. So the FERC believes  
22 we need to be consistent between all meetings.

23           When you get to the microphone, please speak  
24 clearly and state your name, and spell it for the record.  
25 If you represent an organization, tell us what that is

1 without using an acronym. If you are a landowner along the  
2 pipeline route, please indicate where your property is,  
3 according to either milemarks or cross streets.

4 At this time I'd like to call up Speaker number  
5 one.

6 MS. Good evening. My name is Autum Leah-Bryson,  
7 L-e-a-h B-r-y-s-o-n. I'm an environmental scientist, a  
8 board member of the Greenbrier Watershed Association, and a  
9 resident of Greenbrier County.

10 There are numerous environmental impacts for the  
11 proposed pipeline and associated facilities. But I'm not  
12 here tonight to talk about the environmental impacts on the  
13 air, soil, water, vegetation or wildlife. I'm going to save  
14 the list of additional studies needed to evaluate the  
15 hydrogeologic and biological resources and environmental  
16 justice and health and safety issues for my written  
17 comments.

18 Instead, I want to share with you what it means  
19 to be a West Virginian, and how the proposed pipeline  
20 impacts our well-being and the LifeStyles that we choose to  
21 live by.

22 As West Virginians, we lead a simple life.  
23 That's why we've chosen this place to call home. We are  
24 stewards of the environment. We take care of the land  
25 because the land also takes care of us. These mountains are

1 more than just our home; they are our grocery store, our  
2 pharmacy, our psychiatrist and our church.

3           The forest and streams in our back yards provide  
4 all we can ask for in terms of the grocery store. We eat  
5 and drink what nature provides for us. We live off the  
6 trout, wild turkeys, ramps, mushrooms, deer meat and spring  
7 water harvested from these mountains.

8           It's not only sustenance that nature provides.  
9 These mountains are also our healthcare providers, through  
10 medicinal plants such as ginseng, goldenseal, blue and black  
11 cohosh and bloodroot, just to name a few.

12           In addition to health benefits, the mountains are  
13 in and of themselves therapeutic. Being close to nature is  
14 known to relieve stress and boost our mood. We leave behind  
15 the stresses of everyday life when we come to recreate in  
16 the mountains; whether it's hiking, bike riding, boating,  
17 swimming hunting or fishing.

18           The mountains provide endless opportunities to  
19 forget our worries and come out and enjoy nature. The  
20 Appalachian Mountains are sacred to us. As West Virginians,  
21 we seek out the beauty in nature to find peace within  
22 ourselves. We take the time to watch the sunset over the  
23 mountains and listen to the birds singing, and wind blowing  
24 through the trees. And when we sit and observe nature, we  
25 feel the love of God and Creation, and that's what it means

1 to be a West Virginian.

2 So when you evaluate the environmental impacts of  
3 this proposed project, please remember that any impacts that  
4 affect our way of life are going to be significant impacts.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 Speaker number two.

8 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Maury Johnson, M-a-u-r-y  
9 J-o-h-n-s-o-n. I'm from Monroe County, and I'm in both the  
10 Preserve and Save Monroe County group. Pipeline crosses my  
11 property, is also adjacent to several pieces of my property.

12 I'm here tonight because three minutes is not  
13 enough time to say everything we want to say; so I didn't  
14 get finished; I'm going to write you a big, long letter.  
15 Hope you read it.

16 I've come here tonight to ask you to extend the  
17 scoping period; people in the alternate route in Monroe  
18 County and the people in Craig County have not had near  
19 enough time. It's unfair, it's un-American not to give them  
20 more time. Also, you need to I believe schedule some more  
21 scoping meetings in that period of time, so the people in  
22 Fayette County and Greenbriar County and Summers County and  
23 down in Eastern Montgomery County around Blacksburg or  
24 Roanoke, let them have the chance to come, too.

25 You're having a meeting here tonight, it's a

1 Wednesday night. A lot of people are at church. I thought  
2 you would do it on Thursday night, until last night, and I  
3 saw it and I said "Oh, I've got to go up there tonight."

4           The main reason I'm here is to bring you this box  
5 of paper. That box of paper represents 1221 comments that  
6 was made to the Jefferson National Forest when they were  
7 asking about the issue of whether to allow them to survey;  
8 and that's just to survey. It demonstrates the cultural  
9 attachment that the people of Southern Virginia, Southwest  
10 Virginia and all over the United States have about the  
11 National Forest, Peters Mountain, Potts Mountain and all  
12 those mountains down in the southern -- Southwest Virginia.

13           There's an additional 2,000 of these comments I  
14 think coming from other groups, and you'll be receiving  
15 those. 3500 people took the time to write, sign letters --  
16 some long letters. Some said eight pages. So please give  
17 the people of the State of West Virginia and Virginia and  
18 every county the opportunity. It's a long drive.

19           Now in Monroe County, you had a full house. You  
20 had 40 to 50 speakers; not a one of them that I knew of had  
21 anything good to say about it.

22           You talk about Elliston, Virginia. First off, I  
23 think it was wrong of you to say anything about Elliston.  
24 You could have said it at another meeting. Working in  
25 public, if I'd have said something about something happening

1 in another meeting, I'd have been called to task,  
2 reprimanded, possibly even fired. I think you deserve --  
3 people in Elliston feel strongly about what's happening.  
4 You could have done this a different way, and I wish that  
5 you hadn't said anything about Elliston; you could have said  
6 'another group.'

7 So I'm sorry that happened, and I really think  
8 you ought to apologize to Elliston. Those people are very  
9 adamant about this pipeline, as we are in Monroe County and  
10 down in Craig County. And thank you very much for the  
11 comments -- I will leave these out front, and I appreciate  
12 your time.

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

14 And we actually do read all the comments.

15 MR. JOHNSON: There's about 1200 here.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Speaker number three.

17 MS. TOBEY: Good evening. My name is Elisabeth  
18 Tobey, E-l-i-s-a-b-e-t-h T-o-b-e-y I am a landowner and  
19 also a member of Preserve Greenbriar County.

20 I wish to address the issues of land use, visual  
21 resources, socioeconomic issues, the cumulative impact of  
22 the project, and public safety. My husband and I chose to  
23 move here from out of state for retirement. We chose our  
24 land for the great natural beauty and untouched woodlands.  
25 We plan to leave those woodlands untouched, and live far

1 from the maddening crowd.

2 I spent 17 years serving the public in the  
3 courts, and my husband has spent thirty-plus years serving  
4 the public in teaching at AUC. We live here because we can  
5 walk up our property and see America as it was originally  
6 meant to be; untouched woods as far as I can see. I can  
7 drive the Dawson-Springdale Road and see mountains covered  
8 in trees. Nothing divides the forest; there are no rights-  
9 of-way, no power lines, nothing. I can see all manner of  
10 wildlife and hear birds and song. There are no sounds other  
11 than that of nature in the evening if you walk into the  
12 woods.

13 This pipeline threatens that. Instead of  
14 untouched forest, I will see 125 feet of clear-cut land. I  
15 will see an access road. My parcel will be split into four  
16 pieces. I can no longer enjoy the quiet; instead I can hear  
17 the roar of construction and the noise of the operation of a  
18 compressor station.

19 My star-filled nights will be filled with the  
20 glow of lights from the compressor station. My pastures are  
21 to be sacrificed to roads to serve the public need and  
22 private greed. People need food, too; that's a public need,  
23 but I won't be able to provide it with my grass-fed beef.

24 This project doesn't just impact our quality of  
25 life; it destroys it. The pipeline disproportionately

1 impacts rural dwellers. It holds our lives cheap. All  
2 because we wanted the right to be left alone in the country.  
3 Please don't call us 'stakeholders'; we don't hold any  
4 stakes. We are citizens who just want the right to be left  
5 in peace.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

8 Speaker number four.

9 MR. WEIR: My name is Geary Weir, G-e-a-r-y W-e-  
10 i-r. I'm the Director of the Webster County Economic  
11 Development Authority, and I came to speak in favor of the  
12 project this evening based on my belief that the economic  
13 benefit would outweigh environmental and safety concerns of  
14 the project.

15 I'm speaking for the region as a whole, not any  
16 individual landowners that might be affected by the project.  
17 I have a list of economic benefits, including possible job  
18 creation, tax revenues, infrastructure for possible future  
19 development of job-creating industries. And I'm going to  
20 skip over that; that information is available in the  
21 literature that is out there.

22 And instead, I want to speak about growing up as  
23 a child, my family had a hunting and fishing camp near the  
24 Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, right next to an  
25 interstate gas pipeline. For over 50 years we've enjoyed

1 the property; hunted, fished, the streams run clear, full of  
2 trout. The hills and the valleys are abundant with bear,  
3 deer, turkey and other wildlife; and I don't believe that  
4 the existence of the pipeline there has negatively impacted  
5 our enjoyment of our property there, or the land surrounding  
6 it where we've hunted and fished for years. And in fact,  
7 there were actually a few benefits and it was difficult to  
8 get lost in the woods; if you went far enough, you could go  
9 one direction or another, find a pipeline and find your way  
10 back to a road or your camp or somewhere.

11 Also, the enjoyment of wildlife viewing sometimes  
12 was made easier by the existence of some clearings where you  
13 could see the wildlife more easily. I know there are  
14 individuals whose property will be affected by this, and I  
15 can understand their negative views on that; but as a  
16 community as a whole, I don't believe that the negative  
17 impacts from these negative things will be a detriment to  
18 the community. Again, for those individual landowners, I do  
19 feel for them. But looking at this as a project to benefit  
20 the area, I know Webster, Nicholas County Commissions can  
21 certainly use some additional revenues to provide the needed  
22 services that they provide in the area; and this project has  
23 the possibility to positively impact that. Thank you very  
24 much.

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

1           Speaker number five.

2           MR. KEEN: My name is Steven Keen, S-t-e-p-h-e-n  
3 Keen, K-e-e-n. I'm a retired professional engineer, I speak  
4 for no one but myself and common sense.

5           To put it in context, the pipeline route that is  
6 currently proposed is within about a half mile of my home.  
7 If it were closer to my home, I still would not be worried;  
8 if it crossed my property, I only have a one acre or one and  
9 a fraction acre lot; it doesn't cross my lot. If I had a  
10 farm and it crossed it, I would expect to be compensated,  
11 and I know that procedures make sure I would be compensated;  
12 but I would not be against the pipeline if it were crossing  
13 my property.

14           I grew up in Roane County. Roane County has had  
15 oil and gas development for 100 years. There were wells on  
16 my family farm as I grew up; the wells actually were drilled  
17 and redrilled while I was growing up. We had pipelines,  
18 including transmission lines that crossed the farm. None of  
19 that negatively affected our farming; it didn't affect our  
20 wildlife, it didn't affect our cattle or our props, and it  
21 sure didn't affect us as we were growing up.

22           That family farm is still in the family; it's  
23 being run and owned by my brother and his family now, and I  
24 hope it will stay in the family for another hundred years.  
25 And I do not believe oil and gas has been detrimental to it

1 or the area.

2 Pipelines are needed in this country; they're  
3 needed in West Virginia. We need them for energy security,  
4 we need them for energy affordability. Coal, oil and  
5 natural gas are critical to having enough energy at  
6 reasonable prices so that our population can afford to pay  
7 for the electricity we use.

8 There are those who will say, "But we've got  
9 wind, we've got solar." In 2014, even after billions of  
10 dollars of taxpayer money, and many more billions of private  
11 money have been spent to develop wind and solar, those  
12 sources accounted for less than five percent of our national  
13 electricity generation. We cannot survive as a country on  
14 wind and solar; and if we were forced to, if we were forced  
15 to do away with fossil fuels, as I know some in this  
16 audience would you like, we could not afford to pay for the  
17 electricity we would want to consume.

18 The reason wind and solar are not doing more is  
19 because of cost. They cannot produce electricity on a cost-  
20 effective basis at prices we can afford to pay.

21 We need the jobs that this pipeline will create.  
22 The counties need the revenue this pipeline will create,  
23 including Nicholas. Nicholas just laid off a good of its  
24 police force; and as a local library board of trustees  
25 member, we're facing having to lay off or cut back hours of

1 local library employees because of loss of income. That's  
2 due to loss of severance taxes. We need the severance tax -  
3 - all right, the property tax this pipeline will generate.  
4 It should be approved.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

6 Speaker number six.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: I certainly appreciate the  
8 opportunity to speak. My name is Michael Williams, M-i-c-h-  
9 a-e-l W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s. I do not represent an organization;  
10 I am a landowner who resides -- the projected path is to  
11 cross at Columbia Wood Forest Products in Craigsville, and  
12 my home sets adjacent to that.

13 Three things that I want to speak about in  
14 regards to this is, one so far, and I know that the proposed  
15 pipeline project is far from being established and far from  
16 being to fruition; but a lack of information so far by  
17 Mountain Valley Pipeline in regards to environmental impacts  
18 as well as other information.

19 Many of my neighbors live very close to the  
20 potential path, has no idea as to what will being built, and  
21 the scope of what's going to be built.

22 Secondly, the remote controlled shutoff valves  
23 and the manual shut-off valve, as I understand the manual  
24 shutoff valves to be every 20 miles, I'm somewhat concerned  
25 about that; I'm not for sure how that, the remote valves

1 work in case of an environmental disaster such as a flood,  
2 some catastrophe that might impede in the pipeline.

3           And last but certainly not least is the temporary  
4 construction easement of 125 feet, and the permanent  
5 easement of 75 feet. The temporary easement very much  
6 concerns me; one, because the projected path of the  
7 temporary easement goes through the middle of my home. But  
8 secondly, if it's going through the middle of my home, I'm  
9 sure the temporary construction easement probably goes  
10 through or very close to waterways, ponds, streams, creeks,  
11 rivers.

12           Just behind my home in the projected path, would  
13 cross a stream which feeds into two ponds that my father-in-  
14 law owns; has spent much time and effort on those.

15           So I would ask the Regulatory Commission to be  
16 very cognizant of that, to maintain our streams and  
17 waterways, whether they're big waterways or whether they're  
18 very small streams that will protect our waterways. Thank  
19 you.

20           MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

21           Speaker number seven.

22           MS. SPENCER: My name is Mary Spencer, M-a-r-y  
23 S-p-e-n-c-e-r. I'm a representative of the Summersville  
24 Area Chamber of Commerce.

25           As a landowner in Nicholas County, I understand

1 and respect the rights of the landowners through which the  
2 pipeline is going. As the Director of the Summersville  
3 Chamber of Commerce, I'm excited for the opportunity to get  
4 an influx of jobs into our county after the devastating loss  
5 of employment and tax revenue from the coal industry due to  
6 the strict regulation on the coal industry.

7 So I'm sincerely hopeful that the Mountain Valley  
8 Pipeline and the landowners can find a common ground to get  
9 this project moving for Nicholas County and the State of  
10 West Virginia.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

12 Speaker number eight.

13 MS. TURGEON: Hi there. My first name is Leah, L-  
14 e-a-h last name Turgen, T-u-r-g-e-o-n. I just had a quick  
15 comment with respect to Resource Report No. 9, with air  
16 quality and noise.

17 You had mentioned one of the cooperating  
18 agencies; they either held jurisdiction or expertise, one of  
19 which is the Environmental Protection Agency. I have  
20 recently seen research that was documented that shale gas  
21 releases concentrations up to 30 picocuries per liter. The  
22 EPA recommendation of radon exposure limits is from 2 to 4;  
23 that's by a factor of almost 10. So that's definitely a  
24 concern.

25 I was wondering what the scoping considerations

1 for measuring potential of radon exposure were going look  
2 like.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

5 Speaker number nine.

6 MS. BEECHER: Hello. My name is Alice Beecher;  
7 A-l-i-c-e B-e-e-c-h-e-r. I'm here to talk about several  
8 issues I have in concern with the Mountain Valley Pipeline.  
9 One is the issue of public safety in light of a potential  
10 explosion or other natural hazard. There are a lack of EMTs  
11 and emergency first responders in a lot of these counties.

12 Recently there was a pipeline explosion in  
13 January in Burke County, West Virginia that created a  
14 fireball that injured several people. In 2010, in San  
15 Bruno, California, a pipeline explosion killed eight people;  
16 these are lives that we can't take back. I also, in terms  
17 of economics I have some questions about how many jobs in  
18 these localities will actually be created that will be  
19 people that are from these counties as opposed to outsiders.  
20 I know that there's a lot of concern with outside workers  
21 coming in, both in terms of the fact that we wouldn't be  
22 hiring locals and also because there have been issues  
23 recently in oil and gas drilling areas with outside man  
24 counts in terms of their relation to the sexual assault  
25 rates in those areas increasing.

1                   In North Dakota it's as much as 75 percent when  
2 man counts are set up. I work with young women in Nicholas  
3 County, and I am very concerned for their safety and how  
4 these man counts will affect both culturally and public  
5 safety-wise issues in West Virginia. So those are my  
6 comments. Thank you.

7                   MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

8                   That was the last speaker on our list. Is there  
9 someone who has not yet spoken who wants that opportunity?

10                  If not, I'd like to thank you all for being here  
11 tonight. I want to say you were extremely courteous and  
12 kind to everyone who spoke. I want to thank you all for  
13 coming here tonight to help us focus the environmental  
14 review process on those issues of concern to you.

15                  I want the record to show that this meeting ended  
16 at 7:48 p.m.

17                  (Thereupon, at 7:48 p.m., the Summersville public  
18 scoping meeting concluded.)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Office of Energy Projects

- - - - - x  
Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC Docket No. PF15-3-000  
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MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE PROJECT

Nicholas County High School  
30 Grizzly Road  
Summersville, WV 26651  
Wednesday May 13, 2015

The evening scoping meeting, pursuant to notice,  
convened at 7 p.m, before a Staff Panel:

PAUL FRIEDMAN, Environmental Project Manager,  
FERC

ALEX DANKANICH, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation

With:  
LAVINIA DiSANTO, Cardno



## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. FRIEDMAN: My name is Paul Friedman and I am  
3 the Environmental Project Manager for this project for the  
4 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, that's FERC or  
5 Commission. The FERC is reviewing a project proposed by  
the  
6 Mountain Valley Pipeline Company, and they want to build a  
7 300-mile pipeline across West Virginia and part of  
Virginia,  
8 and we are going to write an environmental impact statement  
9 that analyzes the impacts of construction operation of that  
10 pipeline. My office is in Washington, D.C., but we've come  
11 out here to do public scoping to take environmental  
comments  
12 on the proposal.

13 Let the record show that this meeting began at 7  
14 o'clock sharp p.m. on Wednesday, May 13th, 2015, in  
Nicholas  
15 County, West Virginia.

16 As you may have noticed that a court reporter is  
17 transcribing this meeting. That is so we can have an  
18 accurate record of tonight's comments. The FERC has a  
19 transcription contract with Ace-Federal Reporters. If you  
20 wish to obtain a copy of the transcript prior to its  
21 placement in the our public files at FERC, you must make  
22 arrangements directly with Ace and they'll tell you the  
cost  
23 of that transcript. Later, the transcript will be put in

24 FERC's eLibrary system, which I'll talk about later, about  
25 15 days after we receive it from Ace.

1 (Slide presentation)

2 The goal of my team is to write an environmental  
3 impact statement or EIS for the project. The FERC team  
4 would consist of interdisciplinary specialists in fields,  
5 including engineers, biologists, geologists and  
6 archaeologists. To expand our staff's capabilities, we use  
7 a contractor, which is Cardno.

8 Sitting at the desk with me here is Lavinia  
9 DiSanto; she is the Cardno Project Manager. In the back at  
10 the sign-up table was Doug Monneyhan and Charles Brown.  
11 They also work for Cardno now, although Charlie spent about  
12 37 years at FERC before he went off into private industry.

13 Also in the other room, by the cafeteria, are  
14 representatives from Mountain Valley, so if you have  
15 questions about where your property is in relation to the  
16 pipeline, they can answer that question.

17 Next to me is Alex Dankanich. He is here from  
18 the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  
19 of the U.S. Department of Transportation, or DOT. The DOT  
20 is a cooperating agency that will assist the FERC in the  
21 production of the EIS. Other cooperating agencies include  
22 the U.S. Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the  
23 Environmental Protection Agency, the West Virginia  
24 Department of Natural Resources and the West Virginia  
25 Department of Environmental Protection.



special 1 Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction or  
2 expertise They can adopt our EIS for their own regulatory  
3 purposes. So for example, the Forest Service will use our  
4 EIS to analyze potential amendments to their forest plan to  
5 allow the pipeline to cross federal lands.

and 6 The FERC is the lead federal agency for both the  
7 authorization of this project under the Natural Gas Act,  
or 8 for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act  
9 NEPA. To comply with NEPA, FERC will produce an EIS, which  
10 I'll talk about more later.

11 The FERC was originally known as the Federal  
12 Power Commission when it was created by Congress in 1920.  
13 We were reorganized and renamed during the Carter  
14 Administration. The FERC is an independent regulatory  
15 agency. What that means is that a Commission decision  
16 cannot be challenged by either the Executive or Legislative  
17 Branches; however, a FERC decision can be challenged in  
18 court.

19 One of the industries we regulate is the  
20 interstate transportation of natural gas. We also regulate  
21 non-federal hydropower, electric rates and oil rates, but  
we 22 do not site either power lines or oil pipelines. We also  
do

23 not regulate exploration, production or gathering of  
natural  
24 gas, or the local distribution of natural gas. Those  
25 activities are regulated by the States.

1                   Sp we've heard some comments about hydraulic  
2 fracturing or 'fracking,' which is a method of exploration  
3 and production that FERC does not regulate. If you have  
4 comments on fracking, please address them to the State of  
5 West Virginia.

6                   Our agency is directed by five Commissioners who  
7 are appointed by the President of the United States and  
8 approved by the U.S. Congress. There's always three people  
9 from the party in power -- so we have three Democrats;  
10 Chairman Bay, Commissioner Honorable and Commissioner  
11 LeFleur. And we have two Republicans; Commissioner  
Moeller  
12 and Commissioner Clark.

13                   The FERC Staff, like me, are civil servants.  
We,  
14 the FERC staff, do not make decisions; the Commissioners do  
15 that. But Staff does make recommendations to the  
16 Commissioners, and you can read our recommendations in the  
17 back of the EIS under our conclusions section.

18                   Tonight, I'd like to accomplish the following:  
19 I'd like to summarize the project, I'd like to explain the  
20 role of the FERC in the review; I'd like to outline how the  
21 public may participate, and I'd like to allow you, the  
22 public, an opportunity to voice your concerns about the  
23 project.

24                   I ask that you reserve all questions or comments

25 until after my presentation. Recently, last week, we did a

1 meeting in Elliston, Virginia, and the people in the  
2 audience were quite rude, and the booed people they didn't  
3 agree with. But I know that the people of Nicholas County  
4 will show courtesy and be considerate and will respect all  
5 speakers regardless of their points of view.

6 cooperating

I'd like to clarify that FERC and the  
7 agencies did not conceive of this project, nor are we  
8 promoting it. The project was designed by a private  
9 company, Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, a joint venture be  
10 EQT Corporation and NextEra Energy. We call them the  
11 'Company' or the 'Applicant.' And by the way, all of the  
12 applicants that FERC regulates are all private companies.  
13 We were created by Congress specifically to regulate  
private  
14 industry.

15 It is the Company that came up with the proposed  
16 location for their facilities, and it's up to FERC staff to  
17 analyze the environmental impacts associated with  
18 construction and operation of those facilities.

19 The FERC is not an advocate for the project.  
20 FERC staff are advocates for the environmental review  
21 process.

22 So, let's review some project background. On  
23 October 27, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its request to  
24 initiate the FERC's pre-filing environmental review  
process,

25 which we accepted on October 31st. We gave the project

1 Docket No. PF15-3 -- you'll hear me mention that often  
2 because we need that docket number on all your  
3 correspondence. And we selected Cardno as our third party  
4 contractor.

5           During pre-filing the company is supposed to  
6 communicate with stakeholders to identify issues of  
concern,  
7 attempt to resolve those issues, and perfect their formal  
8 application to the FERC. Mountain Valley has stated that  
9 they would like to file their application with the FERC in  
10 October of 2015.

11           At the time of application, Mountain Valley must  
12 also file an environmental report that complies with FERC  
13 regulations at Title 18 Code of Federal Regulations CFR  
14 380.12, and addresses such resource topics as, Geology and  
15 Soils, Water and Wetlands, Vegetation and Wildlife,  
Cultural  
16 Resources, Socioeconomics, Land Use, Air Quality, and Noise  
17 and Safety. During pre-filing, Mountain Valley will file  
18 drafts of those environmental reports into the FERC public  
19 record. Therefore, anyone can review them on our eLibrary  
20 system, and you can comment on them.

21           In December 2014 and January 2015, Mountain  
22 Valley conducted sixteen open houses along the route of the  
23 pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia, with two additional  
24 open houses held in April for alternative routes. FERC

25 Staff attended all of those open houses.

1                   On December 1st, 2014, Mountain Valley filed its  
2 first Draft Resource Report One, or project description,  
and  
3 a summary of alternatives. The FERC Staff issued a data  
4 request on those resource reports on March 13, 2015.

5                   On March 25, the FERC issued a project update to  
6 inform the public where we currently were in the pre-filing  
7 review process; shows we're in the middle of scoping, and  
8 we're taking comments right now.

9                   Mountain Valley filed revised Resource Report  
One  
10 and First Draft Report Seven, which is Soils; and Resource  
11 Report Eight, which is Land Use, on March 27th. They filed  
12 Resource Report Five, on Socioeconomics; and Resource  
Report  
13 Eleven on Safety, on April 10. They Revised Resource  
Report  
14 Ten on April 14th and submitted new Resource Report Three,  
15 which is Vegetation and Wildlife; and a Resource Report  
16 Four, which is Cultural Resources on April 24th.

17                   Again. the public can read those reports through  
18 our eLibrary system and they can comment on them.

19                   On April 17th, the FERC issued its Notice of  
20 Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, or  
NOI.

21 The NOI was sent to our Environmental mailing list; which  
22 includes landowners, elected officials, government  
agencies,

23 Indian tribes, environmental groups, nongovernmental  
24 organizations, local libraries and newspapers, and other  
25 interested parties. The NOI announced six public scoping

1 meetings in the project area, of which this is one, and  
2 explained how the public could file scoping comments. The  
3 NOI was also published in the Federal Register on April  
4 28th, 2015.

5           The scoping period will end on June 18th;  
6 however, the Commission will continue to consider comments  
7 up until the time we write our draft EIS. We will use the  
8 comments we received during scoping to shape the content of  
9 the DEIS, which will focus our attention on issues raised  
10 during scoping. We will also consider the comments we  
11 received right after we began prefilng, up until the time  
12 we issued the NOI.

13           The FERC will not send out individual answers to  
14 individual comment letters, but will instead address  
15 environmental issues raised during scoping under general  
16 resource topics in our DEIS.

17           Mountain Valley proposes to construct and  
operate  
18 a 294-mile long, 42-inch diameter pipeline in West Virginia  
19 and Virginia. The pipeline would originate at the existing  
20 Equitrans system in Wetzel County, West Virginia and  
21 terminate at the existing Transcontinental Pipeline  
Company,  
22 Zone 5 Compressor Station 165 in Pittsylvania County,  
23 Virginia.

24           Additional facilities would include four new

25 compressor stations in Wetzel, Braxton and Fayette  
Counties,

1 West Virginia and Montgomery County, Virginia. The project  
2 is designed to transport about two billion cubic feet per  
3 day of natural gas from production sources in the  
4 Appalachian Basin to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and  
5 Southeastern United States.

6           There is a false rumor being circulated that  
7 natural gas from the project would be exported. This is  
not  
8 true. Can't happen, and I'll explain why. Mountain Valley  
9 has not applied to either the FERC or the U.S. Department  
of  
10 Energy for permission to export gas. Without the filed  
11 applications and our authorizations, gas cannot be  
exported.

12           Mountain Valley has stated that natural gas from  
13 their pipeline is intended for domestic customers who  
14 generate electricity or use gas for local distribution.

15           Pipeline construction can be summarized as  
16 follows: Clearing and grading, trenching, pipe-stringing  
17 and welding, lowering-in and back-filling, and cleanup and  
18 restoration. I've gotten some comments that all of my  
19 pictures are flat. That just happened to be the pictures  
on  
20 my computer the day I put together the PowerPoint.

21           But believe it or not, the FERC does regulate  
22 pipelines across places like the Rocky Mountains, the  
Sierra  
23 Nevada, and the Cascades. So yes, we've all seen

24 construction in mountainous terrain.

25 This slide illustrates the FERC prefiling

1 environmental process. And as I said before, right now  
2 we're in the scoping period. Later during pre-filing, the  
3 FERC will issue data requests to fill in gaps in Mountain  
4 Valley's resource reports, and then Mountain Valley would  
5 revised resource those reports and file its application.

6                   During pre-filing, the public has the  
opportunity  
7 to comment to the FERC about the project. The issuance of  
8 the FERC's NOI is our way of notifying stakeholders and  
9 requesting comments on environmental issues. We urge you  
to  
10 place your comments into the FERC's official record before  
11 the end of the scoping period. Later I'll talk about how  
to  
12 submit comments.

13                   Other opportunities for the public to comment on  
14 the project occurs after Mountain Valley files its former  
15 application with the FERC. Post-application opportunities  
16 for comments include: in response to our Notice of  
17 Application and in response to our DEIS.

18                   Parties may request intervenor status in  
response  
19 to the Notice of Application. Being an intervenor is a  
20 legal position. Intervenors can request rehearing of a  
21 Commission decision. They also have the burden of serving  
22 all parties with their filings. You do not have to be an  
23 intervenor to have your environmental comments considered.

24 You cannot intervene during our pre-filing process. You  
25 must wait until after Mountain Valley files its  
application.

1           If you want to file comments into the  
2 Commission's official record, please follow the directions  
3 given in the public participation portion of the NOI. Do  
4 not send emails to FERC staff. Go on the FERC website,  
5 www.ferc.gov, click on documents and filings, click on  
6 eFilings and follow the directions.

7           If you have problems you can always contact our  
8 IT support staff, and we have a phone number for that in  
the  
9 NOI. You may also submit comments the old fashioned way,  
in  
10 writing, by sending a letter to the Secretary of the  
11 Commission at 888 First Street Northeast, Washington, D.C.  
12 20426. Again, all of this information is in the NOI, You  
13 must put the docket number on all correspondence, PF15-3.

14           You will also have the opportunity to comment  
15 orally at this public scoping meeting. We will be taking  
16 comments from attendees right after my presentation.

17           If you want to sign up and you haven't done so  
18 yet, Charlie and Doug are managing the sign-up list at the  
19 back of the room.

20           Again, we're going to hold written comments as  
21 the same weight as oral comments. So we consider both  
22 equally.

23           The FERC process is fairly transparent. You can  
24 see everything that's filed in the docket by going to our

25 eLibrary system. Again, that's through the web page,

1 www.ferc.gov. Click on documents and filings, click on  
2 eLibrary. Put in a date range, put in the docket number,  
3 which is PF15-3. To be notified via e-mail of all future  
4 filings in this proceeding, all you need to do is sign up  
on  
5 our eSubscription service. And again, we have instructions  
6 for that in the NOI.

7           Based on the application and our own research,  
8 the FERC staff and the cooperating agencies will produce an  
9 EIS in accordance with the regulations of the Council of  
10 Environmental Quality or CEQ, at Title 40, CFR Parts 1500-  
11 1508 to satisfy the requirements of the NEPA. That  
document  
12 will offer our independent analysis of the potential  
13 environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives.  
14 Generally, the EIS will discuss the current environmental,  
15 identify potential project-related impacts on specific  
16 resources, and present proposed measures to avoid, reduce,  
17 or mitigate adverse effects.

18           Once the FERC staff is convinced that the  
19 application is complete and we fully understand the  
20 potential impacts the project might have on the  
environment,  
21 we will issue a Notice of Schedule for our EIS. In  
22 accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, other  
federal  
23 agencies would have ninety days after the FERC releases the

24 Final EIS to issue their permits or approvals.

25 So the Forest Service, for example, would have

1 ninety days after our final EIS to issue its ROD, record of  
2 decision, and the plan amendment for crossing the forest.

3  
Environmental

                  The FERC Staff will produce a Draft  
4 Impact Statement before it produces a final, and that would  
5 be circulated for public comment. Copies of the DEIS will  
6 be sent to our Environmental mailing list. And after  
7 mailing the DEIS, FERC staff will come back out to the  
8 project area to hold more public meetings, to take verbal  
9 comments on the DEIS. And we would address all comments on  
10 the DEIS in the FEIS.

11  
after

                  The Commission would only make its decision  
12 an Final Environmental Impact Statement has been issued.

13                   The EIS will have a section that addresses  
14 pipeline safety. However, it is the Department of  
15 Transportation, not the FERC, that sets standards for  
16 pipeline design, construction and operational safety.

17                   To explain the DOT regulations and pipeline  
18 safety program, here's Alex.

19                   MR. DANKANICH: Thank you.

20                   Good evening. My name is Alex Dankanich, I'm an  
21 engineer and an inspector with the Department of  
22 Transportation's Office of Pipeline Safety, which is a  
23 branch of the USDOT's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials  
24 Safety Administration, commonly referred to as PHMSA.

25

PHMSA's jurisdiction begins once a project is

1 approved by the FERC. Then PHMSA works to ensure that the  
2 pipeline facilities are designed, constructed, operated and  
3 maintained in compliance with federal safety regulations.

4 If the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project receives  
5 permission from the FERC for this natural gas pipeline  
6 project, PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will provide the  
7 regulations for the construction and safe transportation of  
8 natural gas through the pipeline facilities, and will  
9 maintain regulatory oversight over the safety of the  
10 pipeline and the pipeline facilities throughout its  
11 operation.

12 PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety will perform  
13 safety inspections on the natural gas pipeline facilities  
as  
14 well as on the plans, procedures, records to ensure that  
the  
15 design and construction are in compliance with Title 49,  
16 Code of Federal Regulations Part 192, which are the federal  
17 safety standards for the transportation of natural gas by  
18 pipeline.

19 This oversight includes inspections which ensure  
20 that code-compliant materials are used in the construction  
21 process; ensures that welding is performed in accordance  
22 with the federal standards, and by qualified welders.

23 To ensure that the pipeline is installed to the  
24 required depth, that it is protected from corrosion, that  
it

25 pipeline contains pressure-limiting devices, and is  
properly

1 tested before use.

2 Beyond the construction process, PHMSA will  
3 continue to conduct periodic inspections of the operation  
4 and maintenance requirements that are outlined in Title 49  
5 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192.

written

6 The operator must establish comprehensive  
7 procedures describing the types and frequency of monitoring  
8 to ensure that the continued safe operation of the pipeline  
9 is performed.

10 If our safety inspections find inadequate  
11 procedures or that the operator is not following these  
12 procedures, PHMSA is authorized to require remedial actions  
13 and we are authorized to assess civil penalties upon the  
14 operator.

15 Safety is PHMSA's primary mission, and we  
16 understand how important that mission is to your community.  
17 If this project is approved, then PHMSA will work to ensure  
18 that the pipeline facilities are designed, constructed,  
19 operated and maintained in compliance with federal pipeline  
20 safety regulations.

21 Thank you for this opportunity to provide an  
22 overview of PHMSA's pipeline safety program.

23 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Alex.

24 So the EIS that the FERC produces with our

25 cooperating agencies would not be a final decision  
document.

1 The EIS is prepared to advise the commissioners and to  
2 disclose to the public the environmental impacts associated  
3 with constructing and operating the project.

4 The Commissioners will consider our  
environmental  
5 analysis together with other staff's materials pertaining  
to  
6 non-environmental issues before making an informed decision  
7 about the project.

8 The Commission has the option of accepting the  
9 proposal in whole or in part, approving the proposal with  
or  
10 without conditions, or denying the application altogether.

11 The final decision by the Commissioners will be  
12 issued as what we call a Project Order. It is the Project  
13 Order, not the EIS, that would make a finding of public  
14 benefit.

15 If the Project is authorized, the Commission  
16 would issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and  
17 Necessity to Mountain Valley. Before the Commissioners  
18 decide to authorize it, they would base their decision on  
19 their own Certificate Policy Statement that established the  
20 criteria for determining whether or not there was a need  
for  
21 a project.

22 If the Commission decides to authorize the  
23 project, the FERC staff will make certain that the

24 environmental conditions appended to the Project Order are  
25 satisfied. Those conditions usually include a stipulation

1 that the Company must obtain all other necessary federal  
2 permits and authorizations prior to construction. Such as,  
3 a Section 401 of the Clean Water Act water quality  
4 certificate, or a 404 certificate from the Corps of  
5 Engineers for crossing wetlands and water bodies.

6 The Company must implement all of the measures  
7 they committed to on their application and their mitigation  
8 programs. FERC Staff and our contractor will monitor the  
9 project through construction, restoration and the  
completion  
10 of mitigation programs. We will perform on-site  
inspections  
11 for compliance with the environmental conditions of the  
12 order.

13 Now is the time for public comments. Let me  
14 emphasize that this is not a hearing on the merits of the  
15 proposal. Other Commission staff will consider the  
economic  
16 need for this project and the rates to be charged for  
17 service.

18 As I said earlier, this meeting provides you,  
the  
19 public, an opportunity to comment on the type of  
20 environmental issues that you would like to see the FERC  
21 staff concentrate on when we write our EIS. The more  
22 specific your comments are about potential environmental  
23 impacts, the more useful they will be to FERC Staff. Just

24 saying you're for or against the project is not  
particularly

25 useful.

1           This is not a question and answer session; I am  
2 here just to listen to your comments.. We will address all  
3 questions and your comments raised during scoping in the  
EIS  
4 after we have conducted the appropriate research.

5           There are some ground rules about decorum during  
6 this meeting. Please treat all other speakers with  
respect,  
7 whether you agree with them or not. No booing, cheering,  
8 applauding or yelling out. If the audience becomes unruly  
9 or I believe there is a public safety issue, I reserve the  
10 right to close the meeting.

11           We will take speakers one at a time, according  
to  
12 the numbers we've handed out. Each speaker will have three  
13 minutes. Up here we have a child's toy, it's a stoplight;  
14 it is green for two and a half minutes, it's yellow for 30  
15 seconds; and at 3 minutes it turns red. At that time when  
16 it turns red, I'd like you to yield the floor to the next  
17 speaker.

18           The reason we are limiting comments tonight to  
19 only three minutes is because that's what we've done for  
all  
20 the other meetings, some of which were heavily attended;  
and  
21 we needed to move people right along. So the FERC believes  
22 we need to be consistent between all meetings.

23           When you get to the microphone, please speak

24 clearly and state your name, and spell it for the record.

25 If you represent an organization, tell us what that is

1 without using an acronym. If you are a landowner along the  
2 pipeline route, please indicate where your property is,  
3 according to either milemarks or cross streets.

4 At this time I'd like to call up Speaker number  
5 one.

6 MS. Good evening. My name is Autum Leah-Bryson,  
7 L-e-a-h B-r-y-s-o-n. I'm an environmental scientist, a  
8 board member of the Greenbrier Watershed Association, and a  
9 resident of Greenbrier County.

10 There are numerous environmental impacts for the  
11 proposed pipeline and associated facilities. But I'm not  
12 here tonight to talk about the environmental impacts on the  
13 air, soil, water, vegetation or wildlife. I'm going to

save

14 the list of additional studies needed to evaluate the  
15 hydrogeologic and biological resources and environmental  
16 justice and health and safety issues for my written  
17 comments.

18 Instead, I want to share with you what it means  
19 to be a West Virginian, and how the proposed pipeline  
20 impacts our well-being and the LifeStyles that we choose to  
21 live by.

22 As West Virginians, we lead a simple life.  
23 That's why we've chosen this place to call home. We are  
24 stewards of the environment. We take care of the land

25    because the land also takes care of us.    These mountains  
are

1 more than just our home; they are our grocery store, our  
2 pharmacy, our psychiatrist and our church.

3           The forest and streams in our back yards provide  
4 all we can ask for in terms of the grocery store. We eat  
5 and drink what nature provides for us. We live off the  
6 trout, wild turkeys, ramps, mushrooms, deer meat and spring  
7 water harvested from these mountains.

8           It's not only sustenance that nature provides.  
9 These mountains are also our healthcare providers, through  
10 medicinal plants such as ginseng, goldenseal, blue and  
black  
11 cohosh and bloodroot, just to name a few.

12           In addition to health benefits, the mountains  
are  
13 in and of themselves therapeutic. Being close to nature is  
14 known to relieve stress and boost our mood. We leave  
behind  
15 the stresses of everyday life when we come to recreate in  
16 the mountains; whether it's hiking, bike riding, boating,  
17 swimming hunting or fishing.

18           The mountains provide endless opportunities to  
19 forget our worries and come out and enjoy nature. The  
20 Appalachian Mountains are sacred to us. As West Virginians,  
21 we seek out the beauty in nature to find peace within  
22 ourselves. We take the time to watch the sunset over the  
23 mountains and listen to the birds singing, and wind blowing  
24 through the trees. And when we sit and observe nature, we

25 feel the love of God and Creation, and that's what it means

1 to be a West Virginian.

2 So when you evaluate the environmental impacts  
of  
3 this proposed project, please remember that any impacts  
that  
4 affect our way of life are going to be significant impacts.  
5 Thank you.

6 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

7 Speaker number two.

8 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Maury Johnson, M-a-u-r-  
y  
9 J-o-h-n-s-o-n. I'm from Monroe County, and I'm in both the  
10 Preserve and Save Monroe County group. Pipeline crosses my  
11 property, is also adjacent to several pieces of my  
property.

12 I'm here tonight because three minutes is not  
13 enough time to say everything we want to say; so I didn't  
14 get finished; I'm going to write you a big, long letter.  
15 Hope you read it.

16 I've come here tonight to ask you to extend the  
17 scoping period; people in the alternate route in Monroe  
18 County and the people in Craig County have not had near  
19 enough time. It's unfair, it's un-American not to give  
them  
20 more time. Also, you need to I believe schedule some more  
21 scoping meetings in that period of time, so the people in  
22 Fayette County and Greenbriar County and Summers County and  
23 down in Eastern Montgomery County around Blacksburg or

24 Roanoke, let them have the chance to come, too.

25 You're having a meeting here tonight, it's a

1 Wednesday night. A lot of people are at church. I thought  
2 you would do it on Thursday night, until last night, and I  
3 saw it and I said "Oh, I've got to go up there tonight."

box

4 The main reason I'm here is to bring you this  
5 of paper. That box of paper represents 1221 comments that  
6 was made to the Jefferson National Forest when they were  
7 asking about the issue of whether to allow them to survey;  
8 and that's just to survey. It demonstrates the cultural  
9 attachment that the people of Southern Virginia, Southwest  
10 Virginia and all over the United States have about the  
11 National Forest, Peters Mountain, Potts Mountain and all  
12 those mountains down in the southern -- Southwest Virginia.

13 There's an additional 2,000 of these comments I  
14 think coming from other groups, and you'll be receiving  
15 those. 3500 people took the time to write, sign letters --  
16 some long letters. Some said eight pages. So please give  
17 the people of the State of West Virginia and Virginia and  
18 every county the opportunity. It's a long drive.

19 Now in Monroe County, you had a full house. You  
20 had 40 to 50 speakers; not a one of them that I knew of had  
21 anything good to say about it.

22 You talk about Elliston, Virginia. First off, I  
23 think it was wrong of you to say anything about Elliston.  
24 You could have said it at another meeting. Working in

25 public, if I'd have said something about something  
happening

1 in another meeting, I'd have been called to task,  
2 reprimanded, possibly even fired. I think you deserve --  
3 people in Elliston feel strongly about what's happening.  
4 You could have done this a different way, and I wish that  
5 you hadn't said anything about Elliston; you could have  
said  
6 'another group.'

7 So I'm sorry that happened, and I really think  
8 you ought to apologize to Elliston. Those people are very  
9 adamant about this pipeline, as we are in Monroe County and  
10 down in Craig County. And thank you very much for the  
11 comments -- I will leave these out front, and I appreciate  
12 your time.

13 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

14 And we actually do read all the comments.

15 MR. JOHNSON: There's about 1200 here.

16 MR. FRIEDMAN: Speaker number three.

17 MS. TOBEY: Good evening. My name is Elisabeth  
18 Tobey, E-l-i-s-a-b-e-t-h T-o-b-e-y I am a landowner and  
19 also a member of Preserve Greenbriar County.

20 I wish to address the issues of land use, visual  
21 resources, socioeconomic issues, the cumulative impact of  
22 the project, and public safety. My husband and I chose to  
23 move here from out of state for retirement. We chose our  
24 land for the great natural beauty and untouched woodlands.  
25 We plan to leave those woodlands untouched, and live far



1 from the maddening crowd.

2 I spent 17 years serving the public in the  
3 courts, and my husband has spent thirty-plus years serving  
4 the public in teaching at AUC. We live here because we can  
5 walk up our property and see America as it was originally  
6 meant to be; untouched woods as far as I can see. I can  
7 drive the Dawson-Springdale Road and see mountains covered  
8 in trees. Nothing divides the forest; there are no rights-  
9 of-way, no power lines, nothing. I can see all manner of  
10 wildlife and hear birds and song. There are no sounds  
other  
11 than that of nature in the evening if you walk into the  
12 woods.

13 This pipeline threatens that. Instead of  
14 untouched forest, I will see 125 feet of clear-cut land. I  
15 will see an access road. My parcel will be split into four  
16 pieces. I can no longer enjoy the quiet; instead I can  
hear  
17 the roar of construction and the noise of the operation of  
a  
18 compressor station.

19 My star-filled nights will be filled with the  
20 glow of lights from the compressor station. My pastures  
are  
21 to be sacrificed to roads to serve the public need and  
22 private greed. People need food, too; that's a public  
need,  
23 but I won't be able to provide it with my grass-fed beef.

24                    This project doesn't just impact our quality of  
25    life; it destroys it.    The pipeline disproportionately

1 impacts rural dwellers. It holds our lives cheap. All  
2 because we wanted the right to be left alone in the  
country.

3 Please don't call us 'stakeholders'; we don't hold any  
4 stakes. We are citizens who just want the right to be left  
5 in peace.

6 Thank you very much.

7 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

8 Speaker number four.

9 MR. WEIR: My name is Geary Weir, G-e-a-r-y W-  
e-

10 i-r. I'm the Director of the Webster County Economic  
11 Development Authority, and I came to speak in favor of the  
12 project this evening based on my belief that the economic  
13 benefit would outweigh environmental and safety concerns of  
14 the project.

15 I'm speaking for the region as a whole, not any  
16 individual landowners that might be affected by the  
project.

17 I have a list of economic benefits, including possible job  
18 creation, tax revenues, infrastructure for possible future  
19 development of job-creating industries. And I'm going to  
20 skip over that; that information is available in the  
21 literature that is out there.

22 And instead, I want to speak about growing up as  
23 a child, my family had a hunting and fishing camp near the  
24 Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania, right next to an

25 interstate gas pipeline. For over 50 years we've enjoyed

of  
1 the property; hunted, fished, the streams run clear, full  
2 trout. The hills and the valleys are abundant with bear,  
3 deer, turkey and other wildlife; and I don't believe that  
4 the existence of the pipeline there has negatively impacted  
5 our enjoyment of our property there, or the land  
surrounding  
6 it where we've hunted and fished for years. And in fact,  
7 there were actually a few benefits and it was difficult to  
8 get lost in the woods; if you went far enough, you could go  
9 one direction or another, find a pipeline and find your way  
10 back to a road or your camp or somewhere.

11 Also, the enjoyment of wildlife viewing  
sometimes  
12 was made easier by the existence of some clearings where  
you  
13 could see the wildlife more easily. I know there are  
14 individuals whose property will be affected by this, and I  
15 can understand their negative views on that; but as a  
16 community as a whole, I don't believe that the negative  
17 impacts from these negative things will be a detriment to  
18 the community. Again, for those individual landowners, I  
do  
19 feel for them. But looking at this as a project to benefit  
20 the area, I know Webster, Nicholas County Commissions can  
21 certainly use some additional revenues to provide the  
needed  
22 services that they provide in the area; and this project  
has

23 the possibility to positively impact that. Thank you very  
24 much.

25 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

1 Speaker number five.

2 MR. KEEN: My name is Steven Keen, S-t-e-p-h-e-n  
3 Keen, K-e-e-n. I'm a retired professional engineer, I  
speak  
4 for no one but myself and common sense.

5 To put it in context, the pipeline route that is  
6 currently proposed is within about a half mile of my home.  
7 If it were closer to my home, I still would not be worried;  
8 if it crossed my property, I only have a one acre or one  
and  
9 a fraction acre lot; it doesn't cross my lot. If I had a  
10 farm and it crossed it, I would expect to be compensated,  
11 and I know that procedures make sure I would be  
compensated;  
12 but I would not be against the pipeline if it were crossing  
13 my property.

14 I grew up in Roane County. Roane County has had  
15 oil and gas development for 100 years. There were wells on  
16 my family farm as I grew up; the wells actually were  
drilled  
17 and redrilled while I was growing up. We had pipelines,  
18 including transmission lines that crossed the farm. None  
of  
19 that negatively affected our farming; it didn't affect our  
20 wildlife, it didn't affect our cattle or our props, and it  
21 sure didn't affect us as we were growing up.

22 That family farm is still in the family; it's  
23 being run and owned by my brother and his family now, and I

24 hope it will stay in the family for another hundred years.

25 And I do not believe oil and gas has been detrimental to it

1 or the area.

2 Pipelines are needed in this country; they're  
3 needed in West Virginia. We need them for energy security,  
4 we need them for energy affordability. Coal, oil and  
5 natural gas are critical to having enough energy at  
6 reasonable prices so that our population can afford to pay  
7 for the electricity we use.

8 There are those who will say, "But we've got  
9 wind, we've got solar." In 2014, even after billions of  
10 dollars of taxpayer money, and many more billions of  
private  
11 money have been spent to develop wind and solar, those  
12 sources accounted for less than five percent of our  
national  
13 electricity generation. We cannot survive as a country on  
14 wind and solar; and if we were forced to, if we were forced  
15 to do away with fossil fuels, as I know some in this  
16 audience would you like, we could not afford to pay for the  
17 electricity we would want to consume.

18 The reason wind and solar are not doing more is  
19 because of cost. They cannot produce electricity on a  
cost-  
20 effective basis at prices we can afford to pay.

21 We need the jobs that this pipeline will create.  
22 The counties need the revenue this pipeline will create,  
23 including Nicholas. Nicholas just laid off a good of its  
24 police force; and as a local library board of trustees

25 member, we're facing having to lay off or cut back hours of

1 local library employees because of loss of income. That's  
2 due to loss of severance taxes. We need the severance tax  
-  
3 - all right, the property tax this pipeline will generate.  
4 It should be approved.

5 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.  
6 Speaker number six.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: I certainly appreciate the  
8 opportunity to speak. My name is Michael Williams, M-i-c-  
h-  
9 a-e-l W-i-l-l-i-a-m-s. I do not represent an  
organization;

10 I am a landowner who resides -- the projected path is to  
11 cross at Columbia Wood Forest Products in Craigsville, and  
12 my home sets adjacent to that.

13 Three things that I want to speak about in  
14 regards to this is, one so far, and I know that the  
proposed  
15 pipeline project is far from being established and far from  
16 being to fruition; but a lack of information so far by  
17 Mountain Valley Pipeline in regards to environmental  
impacts  
18 as well as other information.

19 Many of my neighbors live very close to the  
20 potential path, has no idea as to what will be built,  
and  
21 the scope of what's going to be built.

22 Secondly, the remote controlled shutoff valves

23 and the manual shut-off valve, as I understand the manual  
24 shutoff valves to be every 20 miles, I'm somewhat concerned  
25 about that; I'm not for sure how that, the remote valves

1 work in case of an environmental disaster such as a flood,  
2 some catastrophe that might impede in the pipeline.

temporary  
3 And last but certainly not least is the  
4 construction easement of 125 feet, and the permanent  
5 easement of 75 feet. The temporary easement very much  
6 concerns me; one, because the projected path of the  
7 temporary easement goes through the middle of my home. But  
8 secondly, if it's going through the middle of my home, I'm  
9 sure the temporary construction easement probably goes  
10 through or very close to waterways, ponds, streams, creeks,  
11 rivers.

in-  
12 Just behind my home in the projected path, would  
13 cross a stream which feeds into two ponds that my father-  
14 law owns; has spent much time and effort on those.

15 So I would ask the Regulatory Commission to be  
16 very cognizant of that, to maintain our streams and  
17 waterways, whether they're big waterways or whether they're  
18 very small streams that will protect our waterways. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

21 Speaker number seven.

22 MS. SPENCER: My name is Mary Spencer, M-a-r-y  
23 S-p-e-n-c-e-r. I'm a representative of the Summersville  
24 Area Chamber of Commerce.

25

As a landowner in Nicholas County, I understand

1 and respect the rights of the landowners through which the  
2 pipeline is going. As the Director of the Summersville  
3 Chamber of Commerce, I'm excited for the opportunity to get  
4 an influx of jobs into our county after the devastating  
loss  
5 of employment and tax revenue from the coal industry due to  
6 the strict regulation on the coal industry.

7 So I'm sincerely hopeful that the Mountain  
Valley  
8 Pipeline and the landowners can find a common ground to get  
9 this project moving for Nicholas County and the State of  
10 West Virginia.

11 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

12 Speaker number eight.

13 MS. TURGEON: Hi there. My first name is Leah,  
L-  
14 e-a-h last name Turgen, T-u-r-g-e-o-n. I just had a quick  
15 comment with respect to Resource Report No. 9, with air  
16 quality and noise.

17 You had mentioned one of the cooperating  
18 agencies; they either held jurisdiction or expertise, one  
of  
19 which is the Environmental Protection Agency. I have  
20 recently seen research that was documented that shale gas  
21 releases concentrations up to 30 picocuries per liter. The  
22 EPA recommendation of radon exposure limits is from 2 to 4;  
23 that's by a factor of almost 10. So that's definitely a

24 concern.

25 I was wondering what the scoping considerations

1 for measuring potential of radon exposure were going look  
2 like.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comment.

5 Speaker number nine.

6 MS. BEECHER: Hello. My name is Alice Beecher;  
7 A-l-i-c-e B-e-e-c-h-e-r. I'm here to talk about several  
8 issues I have in concern with the Mountain Valley Pipeline.  
9 One is the issue of public safety in light of a potential  
10 explosion or other natural hazard. There are a lack of

EMTs

11 and emergency first responders in a lot of these counties.

12 Recently there was a pipeline explosion in  
13 January in Burke County, West Virginia that created a  
14 fireball that injured several people. In 2010, in San  
15 Bruno, California, a pipeline explosion killed eight

people;

16 these are lives that we can't take back. I also, in terms  
17 of economics I have some questions about how many jobs in  
18 these localities will actually be created that will be  
19 people that are from these counties as opposed to

outsiders.

20 I know that there's a lot of concern with outside workers  
21 coming in, both in terms of the fact that we wouldn't be  
22 hiring locals and also because there have been issues  
23 recently in oil and gas drilling areas with outside man  
24 counts in terms of their relation to the sexual assault

25 rates in those areas increasing.

1                   In North Dakota it's as much as 75 percent when  
2 man counts are set up. I work with young women in Nicholas  
3 County, and I am very concerned for their safety and how  
4 these man counts will affect both culturally and public  
5 safety-wise issues in West Virginia. So those are my  
6 comments. Thank you.

7                   MR. FRIEDMAN: Thank you for your comments.

8                   That was the last speaker on our list. Is there  
9 someone who has not yet spoken who wants that opportunity?

10                   If not, I'd like to thank you all for being here  
11 tonight. I want to say you were extremely courteous and  
12 kind to everyone who spoke. I want to thank you all for  
13 coming here tonight to help us focus the environmental  
14 review process on those issues of concern to you.

15                   I want the record to show that this meeting  
ended  
16 at 7:48 p.m.

17                   (Thereupon, at 7:48 p.m., the Summersville  
public  
18 scoping meeting concluded.)

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