

Possibly to Chairman Cheryl A. LaFleur, Commissioner Philip D. Moeller, Commissioner Tony Clark, Commissioner Norman C. Bay, Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary and/or Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary <http://www.ferc.gov/contact-us/contact-us.asp>

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DATE

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Room 1A
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Ms. Bose,

As a citizen of Montgomery County in the New River Valley of Virginia, I am writing to request that an independent and comprehensive Environmental Impact Study be conducted for the route of the proposed EQT/NextEra Mountain Valley Pipeline Project. Because of the social, environmental, and economic impacts of the project, I believe that such an analysis is critical.

My wife and I have refused to have our land surveyed by the pipeline company. While we have been assured that the pipeline will not cross our property, we continue to oppose the project because of the harm it will have to our neighbors now targeted along the route. We also oppose the pipeline because we are aware of the high risk to the earth, water, and general environment it presents.

The proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline will be 42" in diameter – a size never constructed in mountainous terrain as we have in the New River Valley. The proposed pipeline will be 12" inches larger in diameter than the 30" pipelines causing catastrophic damage in Appomattox in 2008 and San Bruno, CA in 2010; and it will carry almost 2 times the volume of explosive methane gas as either of those pipelines. It will have a capacity of 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day which means that it will be capable of pushing 23,148 cubic feet of natural gas per second under or near homes, schools, and hospitals. Since each cubic foot of natural gas represents more than 1,000 BTUs, then that means 23.148 Million BTUs per second will be flowing under or near our homes. This will be a high pressure 1,440 PSI pipeline. If the pipe should burst an unprecedented volume of gas will leave the breach at an extraordinary pressure. Catastrophic damage will be an understatement. The New River Valley does not have the emergency services or forestry services to contain a catastrophic event in mountainous regions with prevailing strong winds along ridges.

In the mountains and in riverbeds, placement of the 42-inch transmission pipeline would require blasting through rock. Sediment erosion from construction would threaten water quality, and leakage from the pipeline would remain a permanent threat to both water and air quality for the duration of the pipeline's use. Forest habitat would be fragmented by the pipeline easement, leading to decreased biodiversity and an increase in invasive species.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is proposed to go through heavily karst topography. It will be like putting the pipeline line on Swiss cheese. Our landscape is filled with sinkholes, sinking streams, caves, and springs. Natural gas liquids contain benzene and other heavy hydrocarbons which do not readily vaporize or disappear, and can be damaging to the karst aquifer. Many of us get our water from wells which derive their water from karst aquifers.

In addition to my request that an independent and comprehensive Environmental Impact Study be conducted for the route of the proposed EQT/NextEra Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, I also ask that the EQT, the company proposing the pipeline, be informed that no steps shall be taken to further the project until after the completion of the Study and until an Environmental Impact Statement is made.

Thank you very much for your attention to our request.

Respectfully,