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Letter to the Editor from “A Monroe County Voter”

EXPLOSIONS

I want to expand on what Dr. Miller says about the explosion risks of the Mountain Valley Pipeline(MVP).

A person needs to look no further than the Farmington No.9 Mine Disaster to see the power of methane (natural gas) explosions.

On Wednesday, November 20, 1968, at about 5:30 a.m. the mine had its first explosion. In the book entitled, "No.9 The 1968 Farmington Mine Disaster", by Bonnie E. Stewart it was reported, "In 1968 the Farmington mine was liberating about 8 million cubic feet of methane every day." There were many large explosions the first two days.

Stewart reports, " On the evening of November 21, 1968 the company capped the two shafts at Mods Run using a steel plate covered by steel beams that weighed 16 tons. At 2:48 a. m., on Friday, November

22, 1968, not quite 8 hours after the company sealed the shafts at Mods Run, the intake shaft blew its cap. The explosion was felt 4 miles away at the company store. A teenage standing on a bridge near the company store said he felt the explosion's concussion against his face."

Remember, this mine was liberating only 8 million cubic feet of natural gas a day. This amount is nothing compared to the 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day under very high pressure that will be transported through the MVP.

Most methane explosions in coal mines occur on days with low barometric pressure. A drop in barometric pressure causes the methane to expand.

This causes the methane to be released from the coal seam at a more rapid rate. Likewise a drop in barometric pressure will cause a gas line to fail. The methane expands and it

will cause a leak anywhere there is a weak spot in the pipe. This is what happened at Sissonville, WV when the 20-inch gas pipeline exploded.

If the MVP would fail near James Monroe High School and Springfield Center, the result would be total destruction of both places. The concussion from the explosion would wreck both the high school complex and the senior care home. Also, if the MVP failed at Lindside, the result would be the same as dropping an atomic bomb on Lindside. There would be nothing left!!

It is time for the elected office holders in Monroe Count to wake up!!! Also, it is time for the planning commission to wake up!!!

*A Monroe County
Voter*

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*For subscription information contact The Monroe Watchman, PO Box 179, Union, WV 24963
phone: 304-772-3016 -- email: watchman2@earthlink.net*