

THE TRUTH IS OUT

THERE ARE FIRM PLANS TO TRANSFORM OUR REGION INTO A 500-FOOT-WIDE PIPELINE ALLEY

Opponents of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) have identified that the 42-inch diameter high-pressure gas pipeline proposed by MVP LLC is part of a plan for a massive industrial corridor through our communities.

The publication of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has two startling revelations:

FERC is leaning toward approving MVP's construction, despite numerous public comments and reports identifying threats to safety, water, endangered species, and local recreation-tourism based economies. That would provide MVP LLC with the right of eminent domain to seize private property along the pipeline right-of-way.

Buried deep in the report are plans for a much larger "utility corridor." The disclosure is one of four proposed amendments to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Land and Resource Management Plan for the Jefferson National Forest. The USFS is the federal agency with the greatest influence to alter or stop the proposed route.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

1. Re-zone part of the Jefferson National Forest to create a 500-foot wide "Utility Corridor" for gas, electricity and water lines; allow construction of a 50-foot wide right-of-way for the MVP within that corridor.
2. Permit the MVP corridor to exceed current restrictions protecting pre-construction soil and riparian conditions.
3. Permit removal of currently preserved old growth forests within the MVP right-of-way.
4. Permit the MVP to cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail on Peters Mountain; reduce the Scenic Integrity Objective for the Trail from "high" to "moderate" where the pipeline would cross the Trail; and allow vegetation restoration to take up to 10 years following construction.

CONSEQUENCES

At a minimum, this massive utility corridor would significantly degrade the Jefferson National Forest and viewsheds of properties within sight of the corridor, including: Peters Mountain Wilderness, Sinking Creek Mountain across from Kelly Knob, Dragon's Tooth, and Brush Mountain.

PORTENTS: What goes through Jefferson National Forest will surely extend to privately held lands.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- How many large-diameter, high-pressure gas pipelines are planned for the Jefferson National Forest utility corridor?
- What other products will they carry?
- How many polluting and noisy compressor stations will be required to move these products?
- What other utilities, such as large electric transmission lines, will be placed in the corridor?
- How many more miles of access roads and acreage on public and private lands will be required for above-ground facilities to support the additional utilities?
- Do we want our farms, forests, water supplies and scenic views sullied by a huge utility alleyway?
- What would a 500-ft right-of-way look like? Google the 556-ft-wide Katy Freeway in Houston Tx.
- Why is FERC rushing ahead to build a twentieth century fossil-fuel infrastructure now that we know it will hasten climate disruption and there are marketable renewable energy sources?
- Why should our region become a sacrifice zone for this?

CONGRESS IS MAKING MATTERS WORSE

Unless we show strong and organized public opposition, utility corridors of this nature will soon

become law. Section 1115 of HR 8, passed by the House of Representatives, would "allow natural gas pipeline rights-of-way through all federally owned lands..." and require the Department of Interior to:

- "identify and designate suitable federal lands as National Energy Security Corridors for construction, operation, and maintenance of natural gas transmission facilities;
- "incorporate such Corridors into the relevant agency land use and resource management plans,
- [specifying that the Department of] Interior shall designate at least 10 National Energy Security Corridors in certain contiguous states."
- Testimony by Timothy Spisak, of the Bureau of Land Management, indicates these utility corridors are planned for the eastern United States.

URGENCY

HR 8 has been passed by the House of Representatives and currently is in conference committee with Senate bill S2012, the Energy Policy Modernization Act.

IMMINENT MULTIPLE PIPELINE THREATS

The MVP is proposed to ship fracked gas from Wetzel County, West Virginia, to the Transco pipeline in Pittsylvania County. Much of it, we fear, is destined for the Gulf Coast to support exports of liquified "natural" gas. Williams Companies intends to build another 42-inch line, the Appalachian Connector, along approximately the same route. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is currently proposed to run north of here. Is there a chance that all three would be routed through the Jefferson National Forest utility corridor?

WHY NOT

Fight to preserve our quality of life, the region's greatest asset. Protect our water and open spaces, our natural beauty, the source of our vibrant outdoor economy that makes our region an attractive destination for tourism and a desirable place to live, raise families and retire. Virginia should look to renewable energy to create well-paying energy jobs and attract the highly trained workforce essential to our robust and growing medical and information industries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Check out <https://powhr.org/take-action/> for:

- Documents describing in greater detail the proposed amendments to the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Jefferson National Forest.
- The House of Representatives and Senate versions of the Energy Policy Modernization Act.
- The Kastning report on the geologic hazards that should make our region a "No Build Zone."
- The Key-Log Economics reports showing how MVP LLC inflated estimated benefits and

ignored the even greater costs of the MVP to our region.

- The Synapse Energy Economics study showing the lack of need in Virginia and North Carolina for the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast pipelines.
- The U.S. Department of Energy's publication "Revolution...Now - The Future Arrives for Five Clean Energy Technologies - 2016 Update."

CITIZEN ACTION IS NEEDED

- Oppose the proposed amendments to the Jefferson National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
- Demand that Congress strip out language mandating interstate "Utility Corridors" from the Energy Policy Modernization Act.
- Use the contact links at <https://powhr.org/take-action/> to:
 - Join or fund the "Preserve" group in your county," conservancy or environmental nonprofits.
 - Sign the Citizens' Petition to the U.S. Forest Service and elected officials.
 - Write to your elected representatives.
 - Communicate your concerns to the U.S. Forest Service-Southern Region (by mid-November).
- Most important, comment to FERC.

We have until December 22 to respond to its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Write to FERC referencing Docket Number CP16-10-000:

Electronic filing: At ferc.gov go to eComment under the link to Documents and Filings to file brief, text-only comments. Another option is eFiling, which allows varied formats for comments. New users of eFiling must register at eRegister.

By mail: Kimberly Bose, secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street N.E., Room 1A, Washington D.C. 20426.

- Attend Our Public Information Meetings!

FERC is hosting private sessions for "public" comment on the DEIS in Roanoke on November 3 at the Sheraton Hotel, 2801 Hershberger Road.

A stenographer will meet one-on-one with individuals to record your comments. Please attend!

In response to the lack of a public session, citizen's groups will host an open information meeting down the hall, beginning at 4:00 PM. Volunteers will be available to discuss critical issues and provide prepared documents for attendees to use in their comments to stenographers.

Please Attend!

**This public service announcement is sponsored by Protect our Water, Heritage, Rights (POWHR), a coalition of citizens and non-profits in counties directly impacted by the Mountain Valley Pipeline.*