

From: [James Martin](#)
To: john_schmidt@fws.gov
Cc: [Amanda Mardiney](#); tiernan_lennon@fws.gov
Subject: MVP BO
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:06:06 PM
Importance: High

John:

Below is our request to amend the BO for MVP. We'll put this letter in the docket tomorrow, but wanted to start the ball rolling for your consideration. Thank you.

March 20, 2018

John E. Schmidt
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
West Virginia Field Office
694 Beverly Place
Elkins, WV 26241

Re: Modification to the Biological Opinion for the Mountain Valley Project

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

On March 19, 2018, Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC (Mountain Valley) requested that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approve a route deviation for their Mountain Valley Project (MVP) in order to avoid impacts on bat portal PS-WV3-Y-1 located in Braxton County, West Virginia. Mountain Valley's *Site Specific Plan* for portal PS-WV3-Y-1, which was required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Biological Opinion, was provided to the FWS by Mountain Valley on March 14, 2018. The *Site Specific Plan* identifies two options to avoid the bat hibernaculum. Option 1 (Realignment East) would shift the pipeline about 150 feet to the east for about 0.1 mile. Option 2 (Pipe Bridge) would use the certificated alignment however, a 150-foot section of the pipeline would be constructed aboveground.

Based on FERC's review of the *Site Specific Plan*, we recommend that Option 1 (Realignment East) be selected as the preferred alternative because this option avoids potential adverse effects to the hibernacula compared to the original alternative, and has reduced maintenance and safety concerns compared to the other alternatives. Therefore, FERC requests that FWS concur with this selected option and proceed with a minor amendment to the BO to address an additional 0.5 acres of tree clearing associated with this modification.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please call Paul Friedman, environmental

project manager at 202-502-8059 or Amanda Mardiney, project biologist, at 202-502-8081.