

**From:** [Troy Andersen](#)  
**To:** [Erika Vaughan](#)  
**Cc:** [Frankie Green](#); [Craig Aubrey](#); [John Schmidt](#); [Cindy Schulz](#); [Paul Phifer](#); [Jennifer Stanhope](#); [Tiernan Lennon](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FAST-41 Quarterly Update: Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2017 1:49:51 PM

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Ma'am:

Nice chatting with you today. As we discussed, you are correct. There will only be one biological opinion issued for this project; the Virginia Field Office is the lead. I hope the other POCs I provided you are helpful in tracking down the remainder of your questions.

V/R

Troy

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Endangered Species/Conservation Planning Assistance Supervisor  
USFWS - Virginia Field Office  
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**From:** Vaughan, Erika [mailto:[erika\\_vaughan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:erika_vaughan@ios.doi.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 14, 2017 5:58 PM  
**To:** Troy Andersen  
**Cc:** Frankie Green; Craig Aubrey  
**Subject:** Re: FAST-41 Quarterly Update: Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects

Hi Troy, please confirm if the plan for the WV and VA offices to issue a combined BiOp, assuming the VA office will be the lead?

Please advise.

R/

**Erika Vaughan** | US Department of Interior, Office of Planning and Performance Management  
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On Fri, Jul 14, 2017 at 12:08 PM, Troy Andersen <[troy\\_andersen@fws.gov](mailto:troy_andersen@fws.gov)> wrote:  
Ma'am:

Thank you for coordinating with us to update the FAST-41 Dashboard for Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects.

Both the VA and WV field offices received the July 10, 2017 letter requesting to initiate formal Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended, on July 10, 2017 via e-mail from Paul Friedman. Therefore, the first two milestones should be updated to an actual date of July 10, 2017, with the status identified as complete. For #3 (Final Biological Opinion Issued), you are correct that the status should be changed to in-progress. The target date is November 22, 2017. The current description for Endangered Species Act Consultation – FWS is still appropriate and does not need to be updated.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Have a great weekend!

V/R

Troy

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**From:** Magdalene Suter [mailto:[Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov](mailto:Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 11, 2017 12:21 PM

**To:** [troy\\_andersen@fws.gov](mailto:troy_andersen@fws.gov); [john\\_schmidt@fws.gov](mailto:john_schmidt@fws.gov); USDOT-FWS-PA -; [erika\\_vaughan@ios.doi.gov](mailto:erika_vaughan@ios.doi.gov)

**Cc:** Nicholas Tackett

**Subject:** RE: FAST-41 Quarterly Update: Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects

Good afternoon FWS folks,

It is my understanding that FERC issued a Biological Assessment for the Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects, which was sent to both VA and WV field offices on July 7, 2017, and requested to initiate consultation. I am trying to update the FAST-41 Dashboard to reflect the current status of Section 7 consultations, but do not want to make any changes without FWS input. There are 3 pre-set milestones for Section 7 consultation on the Dashboard (these cannot be changed, although additional optional milestones may be added). They are as follows:

- 1) Date of Request for formal consultation received
- 2) Consultation Initiation Date
- 3) Final Biological Opinion Issued

Each milestone has a “status” indicator (options are planned, in-progress, paused, complete).

Currently each of the 3 milestones above are identified as planned.

Each milestone also should have either a target or actual completion date, or a text description of the number of days to complete the milestone based on another milestone or action. Currently, the description field reads: "This action is contingent upon receipt of the Biological Assessment. Once FERC has initiated formal consultation and provided all relevant data required by 50 CFR 402.14(c), section 7 implementing regulations (50 CFR 402.14) allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation and an additional 45 days to prepare the biological opinion, unless we mutually agree to an extension."

I am assuming that the first two milestones should be updated to an actual date of July 7, 2017, with the status identified as complete. (I'm not sure what the difference is between these two milestones, so please update as needed). I am also asking if we need to update the status and description field for #3, above. Status would change to "in-progress", and the description field should be updated to reflect FWS review time and BO preparation. (ex. The description field could read "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation and an additional 45 days to prepare the biological opinion, unless we mutually agree to an extension.") Also a target date should be entered (based on the description field, it would be November 19, 2017 – which is 135 days after the BA was sent to FWS with a request to initiate formal consultation). Again update this info per your needs.

Please let me know for each field office (VA and WV) how you would like the information for each milestone presented, and any text descriptors.

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**From:** Nicholas Tackett

**Sent:** Friday, June 16, 2017 10:04 PM

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**Cc:** Magdalene Suter <[Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov](mailto:Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov)>; Heather Campbell

<[heather.e.campbell@ferc.gov](mailto:heather.e.campbell@ferc.gov)>

**Subject:** FAST-41 Quarterly Update: Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects

To whom it may concern:

In consideration of the new processes established by FAST-41, we are sending this email as a reminder to submit updates for the Project's Coordinated Project Plan and permitting timetable no later than June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see the following website for the latest permitting timetable: <https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects/mountain-valley-and-equitrans-expansion-project-n>. Please note that a new permitting timeline for the project appears at the bottom of the FAST-41 webpage. The Coordinated Project Plan from 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2017 is attached to this email for information purposes.

FERC staff relies on agencies to provide updates for their respective permits. According to FAST-41 implementation guidelines, all milestones should include a calendar date, or otherwise indicate the number of days it will take your agency to act on a permit/review after receiving a complete application from the project sponsor. Based on feedback received from the agencies, FERC staff will circulate a final Coordinated Project Plan and publish a revised permitting timetable, by June 30, 2017.

Please send quarterly updates to [Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov) and [Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov](mailto:Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov). On an annual basis, updates should be provided to FERC staff by March 26<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember that FERC's rules prohibit off-the-record communications regarding the merits of contested proceedings (18 C.F.R. § 385.2201).

Thank you in advance for your participation.

**Nicholas Tackett**

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
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202-502-6783 | [nicholas.tackett@ferc.gov](mailto:nicholas.tackett@ferc.gov)

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**From:** Magdalene Suter

**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 10:44 AM

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**Cc:** Nicholas Tackett <[Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FAST-41 Quarterly Update: Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects

In compliance with section 41003(c) of FAST-41, please take note of the ongoing quarterly update process for the Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects. The initial Coordinated Project Plan for the Project was circulated to you at the end of November 2016, and must be updated quarterly thereafter. Please see the following website for the latest Permitting Timetable for the Projects:

<https://www.permits.performance.gov/projects/mountain-valley-and-equitrans-expansion-project-n>.

On a quarterly basis going forward, please email any revisions to the Coordinated Project Plan and Permitting Timetable to [Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov](mailto:Nicholas.Tackett@ferc.gov) and [Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov](mailto:Magdalene.Suter@ferc.gov). Quarterly updates should be sent no later than March 26<sup>th</sup>, June 25<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 26<sup>th</sup> of each year. **(FPISC has allowed a 1 month extension for the first quarter 2017 update for this project because a NEPA schedule update was imminent – see below. As such, please send any first quarter updates no later than April 27, 2017.)** At the end of each respective quarter, FERC staff will post revised Coordinated Project Plans to [max.gov](http://max.gov), and revised Permitting Timetables to the Permitting Dashboard. FERC staff will rely on agencies to inform us if changes are needed to their completion dates.

As you may be aware, on March 31, 2017, FERC issued a Revised Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review of the Mountain Valley and Equitrans Expansion Projects. **This revised notice modified the final EIS issuance date to June 23, 2017.** Please identify any revised permitting timetable dates or timelines based on this modified information. As a reminder, all participating agencies have been instructed by the Executive Director of the Council to remove TBDs, based on guidance prepared by OMB and CEQ. TBDs should be replaced with calendar dates or, alternatively, a timeframe based on another milestone. Please speak with your FAST-41 representative for verification, as needed.

Due to the fact that States have not opted into the FAST-41 process for this Project, FERC staff plans to revise State completion dates to “TBD,” to indicate that completion dates have not been determined.

Please remember that FERC’s rules prohibit off-the-record communications regarding the merits of contested proceedings. See 18 C.F.R. § 385.2201.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

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