

We have reviewed the study plan entitled “Habitat assessment and surveys for rare plants along the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project in Virginia and West Virginia dated June 3, 2015 for the referenced project. The following comments are provided under provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544, 87 Stat. 884), as amended and only apply to Virginia.

We concur with the proposed study plan. In addition to our previous comments, we support the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Division of Natural Heritage comments and also recommend surveying the 11-acre proposed Route 81 wareyard for the federally listed endangered smooth coneflower (*Echinacea laevigata*). Should project plans change or if additional information on the distribution of listed species or critical habitat becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. If you have any questions, please contact me.