

NEXT STEPS

We are currently conducting our environmental analysis of the Projects, based on the information filed in Mountain Valley's and Equitrans' applications, their responses to our post-application EIRs, and comments we have received from stakeholders. The results of our analysis will be published as a draft EIS, sent out for a comment period. During that period we will again hold public meetings in the Project area to take oral comments on the draft EIS. When we have all of the information necessary to complete our analysis and write the EIS, we will issue a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review that will identify the date for issuing the final EIS. The final EIS will address comments on the draft.

HOW TO STAY INFORMED

Go to the FERC website at <http://www.ferc.gov>. Under "Documents & Filings," click on the eLibrary link, click on General Search and enter the docket number (i.e., CP16-10 or CP16-13). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 1-866-208-3676. For TTY, contact 202-502-8659.

In addition, the FERC offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This service will provide you with electronic notification when new items are posted and provide direct links to the documents. To register for this service, go to: <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp>.

Company Project web pages can be viewed at: <http://mountainvalleypipeline.info/> or <http://equitransproject.com/>.

While we believe that the Internet is the best way to stay informed of the Projects, we realize that not everyone has Internet access. Selected issuances by the FERC for these Projects, including the EIS, will be mailed to the environmental mailing list in either hard copy or compact disc format.

Copies of the Mountain Valley and Equitrans applications were also deposited at local libraries in the Project area.

FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAL PAID
SOUTHERN, MD 20790
PERMIT NO. 4004

FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20426

Karen Mayne
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Virginia Field Office
6669 Short Lane
Gloucester, VA 23061

2306134410 PC04

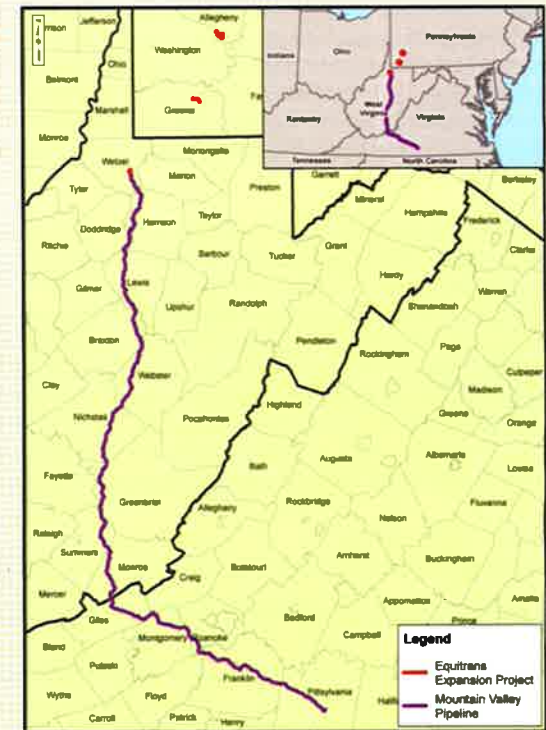


Federal Energy
Regulatory
Commission

Office of Energy
Projects

PROJECT UPDATE FOR THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE and EQUITRANS EXPANSION PROJECTS DOCKET Nos. CP16-10-000 and CP16-13-000

April 2016



PURPOSE

The purpose of this mailing is to provide you with an update on the environmental review of the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline Project (MVP Project) and the Equitrans Expansion Project (EEP), explain the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) environmental review process, identify the issues raised, and give you an idea of what's next in our review process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECTS

The MVP Project, proposed by Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC (Mountain Valley), is a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP; NextEra Energy US Gas Assets, LLC; WGL Midstream, Inc.; Vega Energy Midstream MVP, LLC; RGC Midstream, LLC; and Con Edison Gas Midstream, LLC. Mountain Valley seeks Commission authorization to construct and operate about 301 miles of new 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia. Additional aboveground facilities would include 3 new compressor stations in Wetzel, Braxton, and Fayette Counties, West Virginia; 6 new meter stations, interconnections, or taps; 36 mainline valves; and 5 pig launchers and receivers.

The EEP, proposed by Equitrans, L.P. (Equitrans), would consist of six pipeline segments totaling about eight miles of 6-, 12-, 16-, 20-, 24-, and 30-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Additional aboveground facilities would include one new compressor station, decommissioning of an existing compressor station, two interconnects, and three pig launcher and receiver sites.

According to Mountain Valley, the MVP Project is designed to transport about 2.0 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) of natural gas from the Appalachian Basin to markets in the Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern United States. According to Equitrans, the addition of 0.4 Bcf/d of natural gas via the EEP would allow for greater north-south system reliability and through interconnections with the MVP Project, and other existing pipelines that would provide transportation to markets along the East Coast.

WHERE WE ARE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

The FERC is the lead federal agency responsible for conducting the environmental review of the Projects. In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the FERC will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Projects. The U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources have agreed to be cooperating agencies in the production of the EIS.

Between October 2014 and October 2015, we⁵⁴⁶ conducted a pre-filing environmental review of the Projects to engage stakeholders. During pre-filing, the MVP Project was assigned temporary docket number PF15-3-000 and the EEP was assigned temporary docket number PF15-22-000. We issued a Notice of Intent to Produce an EIS, held public scoping meetings, and issued environmental information requests (EIR) in review of the draft reports submitted by Mountain Valley and Equitrans. With the filing of formal applications by Mountain Valley and Equitrans in October 2015 the pre-filing process ended. On November 5, 2015, the FERC issued a Notice of Application and assigned permanent docket numbers CP16-10-000 (MVP Project) and CP16-13-000 (EEP) to the Projects. The FERC issued post-application EIRs to Mountain Valley on December 24, 2015 and March 31, 2016; and to Equitrans on December 29, 2015 and March 31, 2016. Mountain Valley responded to our first post-application EIR on January 19 and 27, and March 1 and 15, 2016. Equitrans responded on January 22, February 5 and 26, 2016.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED

The following sub-set of environmental concerns have been raised during scoping on the Projects, including but not limited to:

- Impacts on residences, property values, mortgages, and insurance
- Impacts on groundwater, surface waters, and springs
- Crossing of karst terrain
- Construction on steep mountainous slopes
- Impacts on National Register of Historic Places listed historic districts and "cultural attachment" to places
- Crossings of the Appalachian Trail, Jefferson National Forest, and Blue Ridge Parkway
- Clearing of forest and impacts on special status species

⁵⁴⁶ The pronouns "we," "us," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the FERC's Office of Energy Projects.

FERC's Environmental Review Process (dates of completed activities are noted)

Approved the Applicants pre-filing requests and assigned Docket Nos. PF15-3 (10/31/14 – MVP) and PF15-22 (4/9/15 – EEP)

Participated in the Applicants' open houses (12/14; 1/15; 4/15; & 5/15)

Issued Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS and opened the scoping period to seek public comments (4/17/2015 - MVP and 8/11/15 - EEP)

Conducted public scoping meetings and consulted with interested stakeholders (5/15)

Issued Notice of Application (11/5/15) and assigned Docket Nos. CP16-10 (MVP) & CP16-13 (EEP) after the Applicants filed formal applications (10/23/15 for MVP & 10/27/15 for EEP)



Analyze data and prepare draft EIS

Issue draft EIS and open public comment period.
Hold public comment meetings in the Project area to gather comments on the draft EIS

Respond to comments, revise draft EIS, issue final EIS

Commission issues Order approving or denying the applications

Parties can request rehearing of the FERC decision

If approved and once certain conditions are met, FERC issues Notice to Proceed with construction