

Re: [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>

Fri 3/3/2023 9:31 AM

To: Wainman, Barbara W <barbara\_wainman@fws.gov>

He send a second email saying it was a typo so he knows

Karen Armstrong

Chief, HQ Division of Public Affairs - Office of Communications

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Tel: 703-358-2649

Cell: 703-826-3374

Email: [karen\\_armstrong@fws.gov](mailto:karen_armstrong@fws.gov)

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**From:** Wainman, Barbara W <barbara\_wainman@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:30 AM

**To:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

well I think you could tell him sorry thought you were asking the Forest Service.....

Barbara Wainman

Assistant Director

Office of Communications

US Fish and Wildlife Service

(202) 208-5256 (O)

(571) 471-4159 (C)

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**From:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:28 AM

**To:** Wainman, Barbara W <barbara\_wainman@fws.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

he meant FWS.

Karen Armstrong

Chief, HQ Division of Public Affairs - Office of Communications

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**From:** Wainman, Barbara W <barbara\_wainman@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:28 AM  
**To:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

seems like their questions are directed to the FS anyway

Barbara Wainman  
Assistant Director  
Office of Communications  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
(202) 208-5256 (O)  
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**From:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 9:25 AM  
**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Interior Press <interior\_press@ios.doi.gov>; Schroeder, Darin C <darin\_schroeder@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Marshall, Laury <Laury\_Marshall@fws.gov>; Wainman, Barbara W <barbara\_wainman@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

FYI, we received the following inquiry and my response will be no comment on this.

Karen

Karen Armstrong  
Chief, HQ Division of Public Affairs - Office of Communications  
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**From:** Carlos Anchondo <canchondo@eenews.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 6:44 PM  
**To:** Armstrong, Karen <karen\_armstrong@fws.gov>; Public Affairs, FWHQ <publicaffairs@fws.gov>; Schulz, Cindy <cindy\_schulz@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press inquiry on March 2 from Energywire for Fish and Wildlife Service

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Good morning, Karen and Cindy,

Carlos here with E&E News.

After the biological opinion for the Mountain Valley pipeline project was issued on Tuesday, Feb. 28, and posted Wednesday, March 1, multiple groups have issued statements noting that the Fish and Wildlife Service had 45 days available from the end of formal consultation to issue the biological opinion.

Here is the group Wild Virginia:

- "Rather than use the time available to do the thorough review required, the Service rushed the decision, issuing it on the very day that formal consultation ended," stated Wild Virginia's Conservation Director, David Sligh.

Here is the Sierra Club:

- "In their decision process, the FWS was hasty to put out a new opinion that didn't consider comments from the public."

I would like to know:

- Why didn't the Forest Service use those 45 days to review the comments that were received from petitioners?
- Why did the Forest Service decide to issue the biological opinion on Feb. 28?
- Would the Forest Service like to respond to claims from environmental groups that the Forest Service rushed this decision?

Many thanks,  
Carlos Anchondo  
*Energywire*  
E&E News  
(512) 577-9051