We disagree. The EIS concludes that the MVP would not have significant adverse effects on most environmental resources (except for the clearing of forest). The EIS discusses impacts on wildlife, and measures that would reduce those impacts, in section 4.5 of the EIS. Stream crossings are discussed in section 4.3 of the EIS. Regional heavy rainstorms and flooding are discussed in sections 4.1 and 4.3.
COMPANIES AND NGOs
CO110 – Four Corners Farm

Ted's Creek, looking west after heavy rains

Ted's Creek after heavy rains, September 2016
Little Creek, looking east at our four children playing, exploring, and enjoying nature.

foreground is a damselfly nesting on Carolyn Reilly’s hand.

Little Creek after heavy rains, September 2016
In May of 2016, I, Carolyn Reilly, was able to visit a landowner in Pittsylvania whose property is crossed by the Williams Transco pipeline, crossing one of his creeks. In the heavy rains of September 2015, he saw that the pipe was completely exposed due to the bottom of the creek being washed out. Debris and tree limbs were being stopped by the pipe. Williams Transco was contacted and their solution was to place a concrete “mesh” on top of pipeline across the entire 50 foot ROW. See images below.
COMPANIES AND NGOs

CO110 – Four Corners Farm

Concrete mesh covering exposed pipe along a pipeline ROW in a Pittsylvania County, VA creek

View of concrete mesh through creek in Pittsylvania County, VA
COMPANIES AND NGOs
CO110 – Four Corners Farm

Oily sheen of the water is concerning… is there a leak?

Just above the creek area was a wooded land that was marshy and sitting with oily looking water – image below.

Wooded area near the concrete creek in Pittsylvania County, VA.
As requested by the FERC, Mountain Valley filed a response to the commentor’s letter on February 17, 2017 (Attachment General 3k Accession number 20170217-5199). As indicated in that response and in revised section 4.3, Mountain Valley conducted a scour analysis of Little Creek. Channel migration or scour along Little Creek is not expected.

Another concern is the movement and erosion of Little Creek. The current route of the proposed MVP runs through our lower pasture following Little Creek. Below are a series of images from Google Earth that show the change of the creek as it has slowly moved north and more into our pasture.

The DEIS does not address mitigation measures of seasonal rains and flooding concerns through waterways and creeks. Concrete is not a solution or a fix for pipelines through a creek.
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Waterbody and wetland crossing methods are discussed in sections 2 and 4.3 of the EIS. There would be no net wetland loss. After construction, wetlands would be restored to their original condition and function; except for forested wetlands in the permanent easement that would be converted to shrub wetlands. The installation of trench breakers would protect wetland hydrology. Safeguards such as an integrity management plan, cathodic protection to prevent corrosion, and monitoring of the pipeline would be required.

Mountain Valley would ensure that livestock have access to water sources during construction; or an alternative source of water would be provided.

Waterbody and wetland crossing methods are discussed in sections 2 and 4.3 of the EIS, including the use of temporary equipment bridges across streams and matting of wetlands in order for equipment to access the right-of-way.
COMPANIES AND NGOs
CO110 – Four Corners Farm

Natural Gas Explosions Create Extreme Risk for our Family.

Our family lives and works on the farm – we are home a majority of the time. Our children are home-schooled and enjoy time outdoors on our land almost every day. Our house sits approximately 700 feet from the proposed center of the pipeline (as shown in above Google Earth images – red line to house from proposed pipeline). Along with our home, our Farm Store is in the blast zone of the MVP. Any explosion on our land would incinerate us with little hope of escape. We cannot put our family under the constant worry and stress of living so close to a potential bomb that would decimate our lives, livestock and livelihood.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as property owners and caretakers of our land, we demand that the MVP not be granted a permit giving them the right to use eminent domain to seize our land for their private gain. This proposed pipeline is NOT for the public good and benefits the limited liability corporation of MVP.

Sincerely,

Ian E. Reilly
Carolyn E. Reilly
David J. Werner
Betty B. Werner

See the response to comment IND2-1 regarding safety.

See the responses to comment IND1-3 regarding eminent domain.
CO111-1

Comments are noted.

December 18, 2016
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Submitted by Bill Price on behalf of 5 private citizens who submitted oral comments at community meetings held in Peterstown, West Virginia on November 3, 2016 and Jackson’s Mill, West Virginia on November 10, 2016. Commenters were aware that their comments were being recorded to submit as written comments on the MVP DEIS. Audio files of the recordings are available.

Peterstown, West Virginia -- November 3, 2016

Comment #1, Heather
I don’t have a lot of figures, or anything like that, but I will tell you that I’m going to be living 1.8 miles away from the proposed pipeline. All I can think about are my family, my neighbors, and my animals. The farmlands that have been here, the history, there’s something to be said about that. It all could be gone.

Our children and our future, that’s what we need to look at. This pipeline will do no good. That’s all I have to say.

Comment #2, Timothy
My name is Timothy [inaudible 47:13]. I’m not much of a public speaker, so we’ll get on with it. I’m an organic farmer. I have a lot of problems with the pipeline. First, politically, the seeking of eminent domain without any immediate impetus for our own usage is actually constitutional disenfranchisement -- A.

B -- water is life. We feed people around here with the water. Our whole watershed creates a lot of food for a lot of people. We educate a lot of kids on it. We grow a lot of local food here. We can’t do it without the water. Part of the GNP of our state is based on ecotourism. People come here to float, boat, hike, drink the water, do all that. When they can’t do that, they won’t come anymore. That’s pretty daggone simple.

CO111-2
If you live 1.8 miles from the pipeline, your property would not be affected by the MVP. The Commission would consider need and benefits in their Project Order.

CO111-3
The EIS addresses organic farms in sections 2, 4.2, and 4.8. See the responses to comment IND1-3 regarding eminent domain.

CO111-4
Impacts on water resources, and measures to reduce those impacts, are discussed in section 4.3 of the EIS.
COMPANIES AND NGOs
CO111 – Sierra Club

Biological resources are discussed in sections 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, and 4.7 of the EIS. We have found through monitoring that most pipeline projects do return the landscape to what it was originally through proper restoration and revegetation. The project does not involve fracking.

There is no “fracking” associated with the MVP or the EEP. The pipelines are for the transportation of natural gas. Section 4.1 of the EIS discusses karst terrain.

Noise from compressor stations, and measures to reduce those impacts, are discussed in section 4.11.2 of the EIS. Traffic impacts and mitigation are discussed in section 4.9 of the EIS.

In section 4.9, it is estimated that during the peak of construction, Mountain Valley would employ about a total of 8,325 people, of which 2,084 would be local workers. Section 4.9 of the EIS provides a discussion of the potential economic benefits associated with the proposed projects, including increased jobs, secondary spending, and tax revenues during construction, as well as increased property tax revenues to local governments during operations.

See the response to comment IND2-1 regarding safety.

The Allegheny Highlands, where we live today, is rated as the third most biodiverse area in the contiguous United States of America. That means one thing. When we all go down these roads, we go down a road that very few other people in all of God’s wilderness are blessed to go down -- the third most biodiverse area in the contiguous United States of America. We have 2,500 species of fungus here that have been identified by Tradd Cotter, one of the foremost fungal microbiologists in the world.

You can’t get what we got. The colloquial in the FERC statement said, “We’ll do this. We’ll run over it. We’ll trample it. Then it will return as it was.” It does not return as it is. It is here. We are the third most biodiverse area in the contiguous North America. Nobody else has that. You can’t put it back.

My problems are the constitutional disenfranchisement. We’re feeding people. We’re mentoring kids. We’re showing them how to do it. When we poison it all, what are you going to show your kids what to grow? How are you going to feed your cattle? I’ve been to Washington County, Pennsylvania, Washington County, Pennsylvania’s pretty much been ruined by fracking pipeline -- the entire county in Pennsylvania.

It seeps up, miles and miles underground. They don’t even have the same karst that we have. It seeped up in a lady’s organic dairy cattle operation -- 15 years of certification ruined. They couldn’t even pay her enough money. She got paid off, but they couldn’t pay her enough money.

I’ve been to a compressor station. Lee and I couldn’t stand, where you and I are here, and have a civil conversation at a compressor station when it runs. I’ve seen the pipeline trucks on the road. West Virginia Department of Highways can’t even keep up with our lovely road system at this point. Therefore, when all those trucks belly down our roads, really, who’s going to fix them?

The colloquial terms in the FERC statement says, “Labor jobs will be provided.” I don’t believe we have a natural gas pipeline labor union in this state. Menial and marginal labor jobs will be provided, and that’s it. They’ll last a little bit of time. Most of the gentlemen, and I use that term loosely, that I’ve encountered are from Texas and Michigan. They’ll all come in here. We won’t get much money out of it. They’ll be pumping it through. We’re not going to get anything out of it.

I’ve got a problem with that. If we want to keep raising kids that don’t have genetic defects, if we want to keep feeding cattle, if we want to keep drinking water, if we want to keep floatin and boatin, if we want to keep a several-million-dollar GNP ecotourism economy going, and we want to keep a great local food system going that educates our children and feeds us the nonpoisoned food that we buy in the grocery store, then we need to fight this thing. We need to stand together.

My other problem with it is the problem that’s everywhere. It divides communities. We need to stand together on this -- strong. Thank you.
CO111 – Sierra Club

Comment #3
I spoke with FERC about the Appalachian Trail. Sixty-two years ago, I made my first trip on the Appalachian Trail with Boy Scouts Troop 56 in Blacksburg, Virginia. I can’t tell you what it meant to me to see springs on the trail, on the top of the mountain. I couldn’t believe it. It gave me a real insight in my first exposure to karst, which our scoutmaster mentioned at the time.

I spoke with the Forest Service about this, and implored them to be stewards of the Forest, for the people, and to not further the rise of corporate fascism, which is what we’re seeing today. It was tamp ed down, what, 80, 90, 100 years ago with the Teapot Dome Scandal and the Antitrust Suit, but they’re back. The people along this Mountain Valley Pipeline, the Dakota Access Pipeline, the three pipelines in Australia the gentleman mentioned, are of no consequence, whatsoever. We don’t make any difference.

I must say something political here, for a moment. The gentle man running for County Commissioner, Kevin Galford, has said, “I’m all for the pipeline. If they want to bring it through my living room, I’ll get out of the way.” If he is elected, you can expect him to aid and abet anything that they want. They believe there’ll be some pie-in-the-sky dollar amount come into our county. We know how that works. If you want to show me the dollar, put it in my hand, please, now.

I hope you folks will continue the effort. I know we have ups and downs, emotionally, about it. I hope we can gather some young people to step forward and take their part, because push is going to come to shove. I am afraid, on the Mountain Valley Pipeline, just exactly like it’s doing in Standing Rock against the Dakota Access Pipeline.

You’re going to have to dig down and find out who you are, and what you really want. You can shut your door and turn out your lights, or you can step forward for the betterment of all of us. That’s the decision that we’re going to have to make in the year ahead. That’s all I’ve got to say.

Comment #4
I want to be politically correct. I’m horizontally disadvantaged and vertically challenged, as you can see here. My remarks are fairly specific to a whole village in Newport in eastern Giles County. I grew up there.

I graduated, next-to-the-last class from the school there. Seventy-five percent of my senior class went to college, with community college, 9 out of 12. We’ve done well. I played one of the first baseball games there, and [inaudible 1:20:44] celebrating its 65th anniversary. Our covered bridge turned 100. Our Methodist Church is 165 years old.

When we begin to look at the threats that are being opposed, I begin to look at it from our village. It is a very diverse little village, and we’re very proud of it. It was

CO111-10
The ANST is discussed in section 4.8 of the EIS. The economic benefits of the MVP are discussed in section 4.9.

CO111-11
See the response to comment IND234-1 regarding the Greater Newport Historic District. Historic covered bridges and the Newport Recreation Center (former high school) are discussed in section 4.10. See the response to comment IND133-1 regarding the Mount Olivet Methodist Church. The MVP pipeline is 42-inches-in-diameter (not 84-inches, see section 2). Section 4.1 of the EIS discusses karst terrain. Farmland soils are addressed in sections 2 and 4.2. See the response to comment IND332-1 regarding farming. The Commissioners would make a determination of public good in their Project Order.
Climate change is discussed in section 4.13 of the EIS. See the response to comment IND40-1 regarding renewable energy.