BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

IN RE:

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE OIL & GAS CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER GENERAL PERMIT NO. WVR310667;
MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE STATE 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION WQC-16-0005; AND
MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE, LLC NATURAL STREAMS PRESERVATION ACT PERMIT NSP-17-0001

HELD MARCH 6, 2017
WEBSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
COWEN, WEST VIRGINIA

6:00 P.M.

Donna H. Miller
Court Reporter
A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF THE DEP:

JAKE GLANCE
Public Information Specialist
601 – 57th Street
Charleston, WV 25304

DENNIS STOTTLEMYER
Office of Environmental Advocate

JEREMY BANDY
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

ON BEHALF OF DIVISION OF
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

LAURA COOPER
WILMA REIP
NANCY DICKSON
MR. GLANCE: Good evening. I am Jake Glance from the Department of Environmental Protection's Public Information Office. Welcome to tonight's public hearing on the Mountain Valley Pipeline's Oil and Gas Construction Stormwater Permit, State 401 Water Quality Certification, and the Natural Streams Preservation Act Permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Also here this evening are Dennis Stottlemyer from the Office of the Environmental Advocate. He's out front with everybody. Laura Cooper from the Division of Water Waste Management; Jeremy Bandy with Environmental Enforcement is here. Also Wilma Reip and Nancy Dickson from the Division of Water Waste Management, and there's a few other people in the back. So if you want to, while we are doing this, feel free to go back and learn more about the permits.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to give you the opportunity to share your comments with the DEP about the permits for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Tonight's hearing is being recorded by
a court reporter so that the comments shared can be part of the public rulemaking record.

To ensure that we successfully achieve the purpose of this hearing, we ask that everyone be respectful and considerate of each other by refraining from interrupting others while they are speaking, and keeping your comments on topic so that our time together is used efficiently.

We don’t have that many people signed up to speak. I think we have six. So I think the time limit for each person when giving their public comments will be five minutes per person. For those wishing to speak, when I call you up to provide your comments, please state your name and say if you are representing any groups or organizations.

If you have written comments that you would like to submit in addition to or in addition to your spoken comments, please hand them to me after you speak or at the conclusion of the hearing.

If no one has any questions about the hearing format, we will begin with our first speaker. Any questions?

What we are going to do, I’ll call the first name, and if you would, the reason why we have
it set up like we do, is so people can come up and talk one-on-one with the court reporter while everybody else talks to people from the DEP to learn about the pipeline. So, you’ll be coming up here to come to sit one-on-one with the court reporter to make your public comments.

So, any questions about the public format?

SPEAKER: So we won’t be able to hear the comments?

MR. GLANCE: If it’s going to be quiet enough you’ll be able to hear them. They will be coming up here. The first person is David Butterworth.

David, come up and have a seat with the court reporter. Up next is Jeffrey Todd. Then after Jeffrey is Lance Morgan.

MR. DAVID BUTTERWORTH: My name is David Butterworth. I’m a business agent for Pipeliners Local 798. I would like to speak this evening about the quality, safety and training that Local 798 brings to the table during the construction of pipeline projects such as the Mountain Valley Pipeline. I represent 6,000 welders, helpers and
journeymen who live all over the United States. My jurisdiction runs from Maine to Virginia, and there are around 1,000 of our members who live and work in this northeast jurisdiction.

Local 798 has built most of the major pipelines that run across this nation, including the Alaska Pipeline which was built in the 1970’s.

I would now like to talk about the quality of work and craftsmanship that Local 798 devotes to these projects. Our welder members must take a qualification test before they are allowed to weld on the pipeline. These qualification wells are destructively tested, and if any imperfections are found in the weld, that member is not allowed to weld on the pipeline. If a member does pass the qualification test, he then has every weld he makes on the job x-rayed and reviewed by a Level III x-ray technician who decides if the weld is acceptable and stands up to a 1104 code. In most places if a welder has three or more unacceptable welds, he will be removed from that project. With these standards in place, Local 798 welders are held under some of the strictest guidelines in the construction industry, and these are standards that we are proud
to uphold.

Now onto environmental and safety training. Safety and environmental training is something that Local 798 holds of the utmost importance. Our contractors and the clients we work for have extensive safety and environmental awareness programs that protect our workers and the land that we are working on. When these pipelines are built, they are built by a collective group that understands that when we build a pipeline, we must build it safely with the least amount of environmental impact possible, and everything else is secondary to that.

Local 798 is home to one of the most state of the art training facilities in the country. We understand that we must keep up with the most current procedures in an ever-changing industry. Our facility has 52 welding booths and is equipped with a 10-ton overhead crane so our members can either brush up or learn new skills. The Local 798 training center is a testament to our dedication to providing our members with the best of the best when it comes to training so that they can apply the latest technology when pipelines are built now and
in the future.

In closing I would like to say the purpose of my speech is to show you who will be building this pipeline and to assure you that it will be built with highly trained, skilled, safe American workers. I support the Mountain Valley Pipeline and hope for swift approval of the permits so the union members I represent can go to work on this project.

Thank you.

MR. GLANCE: Up next is Jeffrey Todd, and Lance Morgan is after Jeffrey, and after Lance is Jason Lockhart.

MR. JEFFREY TODD: My name is Jeffrey Todd. I am here today to voice my support for the Mountain Valley Pipeline. I’m a lifelong resident of West Virginia, and I’ve lived in various parts of the state and seen numerous amounts of pipeline activity through my years.

Generally speaking what I’ve seen it’s probably one of the least intrusive forms of energy production and distribution. Typically environmental impacts are low, and oftentimes temporary. I also believe that with the pipeline,
the Mountain Valley Pipeline, it will help generate
tax revenue that our state desperately needs. I
also feel that, especially in counties like Webster
County, where natural gas is, I believe there is no
infrastructure, you know, it could help residents to
convert from heating oil and stuff that’s much more
expensive and difficult on the rural parts of the
state.

So, with that being said, I think West
Virginia can only benefit from this project. I also
feel that in the long run, it could potentially help
to bring people into our state, which in turn could
generate more tax revenue that our state desperately
needs and help us to dig our way out of this deficit
that we are in.

That’s all.

MR. GLANCE: Up next is Lance Morgan.

After Lance is Jason Lockhart, and then after Jason
is Nicholas Johnson.

MR. LANCE MORGAN: I don’t know how to
speak on the project, but I’m an engineer by trade
and do a lot of pipeline work, and I know a lot of
the concerns with the pipeline is the construction
process itself. Pipeline work when done responsibly
has very limited impact on streams and natural resources.

Land use for a big pipeline, and once it’s in the ground, you have an opportunity for grazing. You just can’t have trees or buildings on it. I think the impact to the people, once the pipeline is in place, should be minimal, and I think it’s important for West Virginia, it can be an advantage having the Marcellus shale and the pipeline run through the southern part of the state to give us an edge for industry and cheaper fuel source for people. I have natural gas in my house, and it’s a lot cheaper than electricity, and I think that businesses once they -- we have a great interstate network, and I think that bringing another resource for them to use and build on for businesses is very important for growth in the southern part of the state. That’s all I have.

MR. GLANCE: Next is Jason Lockhart, and after Jason is Nicholas Johnson. Is Jason Lockhart here? He is signed up for public comments.

MR. NICHOLAS JOHNSON: Anyway, Webster County is fascinating. It is one of the last remaining glades of the Appalachians. It’s a great
plan. You can see it if you go down this highway. It’s phenomenal, and I would hate to see this pipeline go through here and affect that. But that’s beside the point. I am going to read my comments that I have already written up, and I will mail and spend 49 cents on mail so I can support my local post office.

To whom it may concern of the DEP. I am deeply disturbed by the intention of certain parties wishing to construct infrastructure that has the potential to cause harm to the Appalachian rain forest. To the degree that my generation and any generation would possibly know me or those who might have had some form of contact, either directly or indirectly, in other words, the damage possible if brought to fruition would last for centuries. Perhaps you all of the bureaucracy for the environment have your own private little slices of almost heaven, and therefore you fear not the destruction of your home. Some of us Appalachians have more concern for the lives and land of our brothers and sisters.

Consider this a formal written comment opposing the Mountain Valley Pipeline and all other
fossil fuel infrastructure considered for the
regional officially and unofficially accepted as the
Appalachians. Sincerely, Nicholas Johnson.

P.S., here’s a suggestion: the
Department of Environmental Protection should move
to enshrine the Appalachians as a sacred ecosystem,
and as such, should work to minimize detrimental
industrial practices. On the scale that
industrialism takes place, the balance of natural
life is affected generally for the worse. Of
course, you all knew that, right?

That’s my comment.

MR. GLANCE: Jason Lockhart signed up. Is
he here? That was the last person who signed up.
In the meantime, I urge everyone to talk with the
folks here. All right, Gary Weir.

MR. GARY WEIR: I just wanted to say that
basically I am in favor of the project. It could
bring some money to the county, which is much
needed. I do want to make sure that during the
construction phase that the water in particular and
the land and the roads are taken care of and that
things aren’t damaged. But I can trust that the DEP
and other agencies will be looking after that, and I
guess that’s it.

MS. CHARLENE GROUNDS: My opinion is, I would be for the pipeline personally if our county benefitted from it. If it provided more than a very, very small percentage of jobs for our people in the county, and as well as the state. I hear the pipeline brings in a whole lot of their own employees. I think they should maybe hire a little more people in West Virginia because we are a state that needs jobs. I realize they have to bring in some just for experience, and people are very concerned about the eminent domain thing that maybe they will have their property taken away, and they don’t want it. So, that’s all I have to say.

MR. GLANCE: Is there anybody else that wants to speak, any other public comments? This concludes this hearing on the permits for the Mountain Valley Pipeline project. The public comment period for these permits ends at 8:00 p.m., on March 19th. You can submit any comments via e-mail at DEP.comments@wv.gov. Thank you for coming out. Have a safe drive home.
CONCLUDED AT 7:00 P.M.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF KANAWHA, to wit:

I, Donna H. Miller, Notary Public in and for the State of West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing was duly taken by and before me, under the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure, at the time and place and for the purpose specified in the caption thereof.

I do certify that the said hearing was correctly taken by me by means of the Stenomask; that the same was transcribed by me, and that the said transcript is a true record of proceedings had.

I further certify that I am not connected by blood or marriage with any of the parties to this action, am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested in the action, or interested, directly or indirectly, in the matter in controversy.
Given under my hand this 10th day of March, 2017.

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Donna H. Miller
Notary Public

My commission expires October 1, 2023.