STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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IN RE: MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE
PUBLIC HEARING
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BEFORE:    JACOB GLANCE, Public Information Officer
HEARING:   Thursday, March 9, 2017
           6:05 p.m.
LOCATION: Robert C. Byrd High School
           One Eagle Way
           Clarksburg, WV  26301

Reporter: Sara Toomey

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APPEARANCES

NONE PRESENT
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Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.
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MR. GLANCE: Good evening. I'm Jake Glance from the Department of Environmental Protection's Public Information office. Welcome to tonight's public hearing on the Oil and Gas Construction Stormwater General Permit, the State 401 Water Quality Certification and the Natural Springs Preservation Act Permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Also here this evening are several members of the DEP's Division of Water and Waste Management. All the DEP folks, if you could raise your hand. If there is ever a time during the hearing when you have questions, feel free to approach one of these folks and ask your questions. I'm sure they'll be able to help you.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to give you the opportunity to share your comments with the DEP about the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Tonight's hearing is being recorded by a court reporter so that the comments shared can be made part of the public 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're speaking and
keeping your comments on topic so that our time together is used most efficiently.

I think we have about ten people who have signed up to speak, so the time limit for tonight for each speaker will be five minutes.

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

What we're going to do is give you a couple choices of what you want to do. You can either come up and sit next to the court reporter if you're most comfortable with that. You can come up and stand at the bottom here and speak. Or you can come up on stage up these stairs if you want to give your public comments that way. So you have a couple of different options for what you want to do.

And during the time when people are giving public comments, again, if you have any questions, if you want to look at any of the maps, please feel free to move around the room. But please remember that the court...
reporter really needs to hear all of what people up here are saying. So if I could try to keep your voices down if you're asking questions and getting information.

So if no one has any questions about the hearing format, we'll get started with our first speaker. Any questions? Yes, sir.

BRIEF INTERRUPTION

MR. GLANCE: Yeah. This one's full. So it's right there in the back corner there. All right.

The first speaker tonight is Tom Bond, followed by Kevin Williams. And after Kevin is Julie Barry. So up first is Tom Bond.

MR. BOND: My name is Tom Bond. I live two miles from the interchange at Jane Lew. And I don't represent any particular organization tonight, but I can connected with many organizations. I write for Frack Check West Virginia.com.

Everybody knows if you have taken the trouble to go out and look at large-diameter pipeline reclamation that it's not much to brag about. We have one through Lewis County now already. I've been over a good bit of it. And there are all kinds of problems that even an outdoor person like myself, I farm, can see.

And it's my opinion that these are a
disaster waiting to happen. The ditch goes right up
downhill. Then they put in a pipeline which has slick
plastic on the outside. Then they fill back in with
random material what they've dug out, often big rocks,
because it goes right through rock ledges. And it looks
to me like a gully looking for a place to happen.

Everybody knows, if you are familiar with
the outdoors, that the land is affected far beyond the
right-of-way. The trees grow in toward to right-of-way
and the adjacent area does not produce good timber. It's
out for an indefinite length of time.

Another big problem is that regardless of
what's said now, not very far in the future, they'll be
taking these right-of-ways clear with fray. It's just
simply too expensive to put machinery or manpower up and
down the kind of hills that are involved. So the spring
will be done with a helicopter. I've seen spring with a
helicopter and it drifts. So it's going to drift off.

The gist of what I'm trying to say here is
that it's not only the right-of-way, designated
right-of-way that's affected, but there's a great deal of
land on both side that's affected.

Everybody knows if you read the lease
contracts that they take everything they can get. These
projects, not only this one but all of them, are set up without an end. A normal project has a beginning and a middle and there has to be some planning for the end. These apparently don't have any planning for an end.

They take the land in perpetuity. They tie up development on both sides of the line. They even take the gas that's under the line so that it can't be taken out by other companies. It's just simply a huge grasping operation.

Everybody knows if you understand cost-plus basis for utilities that the customers will eventually pay for these pipelines, even if the need for gas is drastically reduced. This is because it's a surefire investment for the bank that lends the money. And it's a surefire investment for the utility. Somebody else, the little people, have to pay. And the more the pipeline costs, the more everybody makes, the utility and the banks.

Everybody knows if you read, it is a scheme to block renewables. Thirty-nine (39) percent of the new electrical generation capacity in 2016 was solar. Wind was 26 percent. And gas was only 29 percent. Times are changing.

I read Science, the journal of the
American Association for the Advancement of Science. And every few issues, there's some new improvement in solar. And I know that's the same kind of improvement going on in wind as well. So this is a misspent investment. Instead of investing in the pipelines, the money should be going into renewable resources, which don't put out carbon dioxide.

Now, I expect there are a lot of people in the audience that do not believe or say they don't believe, for some reason or another, in global warming. It's unquestionably a fact. Ninety-seven (97) percent of the people who have worked on the problem say so.

And if you want to, you can work out the science yourself. I have that background. So I follow it. And I know what they're saying is true. But it's not like calling a mechanic. What you have to do is read a lot and you can understand what's going on.

Large corporations are like a wild beast in the jungle. They are looking for something to kill and eat. They are looking to avoid anything that will kill and eat them. Their lifetime involves the next dividend or two. Their life --- I'm sorry. It's their timeline involves a next dividend or two and it goes to infinity in just a few years. That's no way to run a
democratic civilization.

MR. GLANCE: Up next, Kevin Williams.
After Kevin is Julie Barry. And after Julie is Jason
Lockard.

MR. WILLIAMS: I'll just stand down here.
MR. GLANCE: Wherever you're comfortable.
MR. WILLIAMS: I'm Kevin Williams. I live
in Harrison County. We have a large farm. I have
several gas lines on our existing farm. Some have been
there as long as 40 to 50 years and some have been laid
in the last five to seven years. So I'm familiar with
some of the processes and things that are necessary to
actually put the pipelines in.

I've seen good jobs and I've seen bad
jobs. And I will have to say that some of the newer
ones, because of some of the environmental controls and
things that are being required to put in place, they are
better than a lot of the ones I've seen before. There's
no doubt about that.

I will be the first to tell you that once
you disturb the ground, anybody that's been around it
before, it doesn't always come back the way it was
before. No doubt about that. But it will after a while
if you take care of it and the people take care of it as
necessary.

So from that aspect, like I said, I've had pipelines on our farm for several years. The new ones were put in much better than the older ones from what I've seen.

I kind of look at this as --- the way these new pipelines are coming in from this Marcellus and Utica, if you think about the way the road system was in the United States, you had two-lane highways for years and years and years trying to get people from one place to the other. But now you've got all this abundance of gas.

These large-diameter pipelines that they're wanting to put in place now, I think of them as similar to the interstate to be able to move them. Now, whether that's right or wrong, I'm just telling you that's the way I correlate it now.

I also know that we've got gas that needs to be moved out of West Virginia. We've got gobs of gas in West Virginia. And I know that's an issue that we've got to get moved out. There are natural gas power plants being built. But to get the gas to them, you have to have some pipelines to get it going.

A lot of the existing pipelines that's in
West Virginia are old. Some of them as old as 100 years and they're still in existence. So you've got to look at it from that aspect.

From a pipeline standpoint, once they are put in, they are basically there. Yeah, it does prevent the property owner from being able to utilize it. Other than if you're farming like I am, you can run cattle across it and things like that. But you cannot build on it.

So it's a good thing, I believe, to get this stuff moving --- the gas. And you know, again, like I said, I'm a property owner. I may not like it when it's put it, but once it's in place, you don't really realize it's there after five years or so unless there's something that happens that you need to deal with.

But that's just my thoughts on it. So at this point in time, I think I would like to say that I'm in favor of putting these pipelines in and getting the gas moving to where it needs to go. Even though, like I said, I am a property owner and I've seen both sides of it. So I appreciate your time.
Section 401 for permitting for the various oil and gas companies. This is not one of them. But I just wanted to say that, you know, during the 401 permitting process that we take appropriate VMPs and a number of pathways to ensure that, you know, copper dams are installed properly and that origin sanitation control is in place. And that all permits that are necessary for the pipeline to be installed are obtained prior to doing the construction.

You know, I just want to say that, you know, without these pipelines we would see a lot of people lose jobs, possibly me as one of them. Because it does bring a lot of stimulation to the economy.

And I know in West Virginia, at present, we have a downturn of economic development and jobs related to the coal industry. And this is a means to provide an equal pay for people that have since been displaced from employment. And that would be my stance as to why I would be for the pipeline.

MR. GLANCE: Up next, Jason Lockard. After Jason is Greg Heffner. And after Greg is Frank Guzzi, Guzzi (changes pronunciation)? Close enough?

MR. LOCKARD: Hi. I'm Jason Lockard. I'm from SLS Land & Energy Development out of Glenville, West Virginia. I'm in support of the pipeline. There are
some pros and cons to the pipeline.

Like the other gentleman said, there is some disturbance to the land during construction. But it's like building a house. You're going to have to tear up the land a little bit to build a nice home.

The pipeline will help provide jobs to a lot of communities that are starving right now with the coal industry being down. Natural gas is another fossil fuel that West Virginia is very fortunate to have.

It will also help bring in money to county associations that are struggling right now. It's going to bring money into the state. We're struggling right now. We've got adjustments to try to come with ways to save money and bring money back to West Virginia.

Just gas companies, during the construction phase, the disturbance of the land, they do tear up the roads just a little bit. However, when the project's done, they go back in. They repave the roads. And they pave it better than what it was when they left it.

Also, the gas companies, the pipeline companies are also fortunate --- or good to communities such as this high school here. I'm sure that they'll make money to help offset some of their expenses and
provide jobs. West Virginia right now, we're in a real bad situation as far as jobs. This will help us out to provide moderate good paying jobs with benefits that a lot of West Virginians don't have right now.

Again, this is going to bring a lot of money in. And like the other gentleman said, there is a surplus of gas here. We do need to get that gas out. That will bring in good service tax that will we paid to the counties, to the different states or to West Virginia and the surrounding states. So again, on a personal side, I'm in favor of the pipeline.

MR. GLANCE: Up next, Greg Heffner. After Greg is Frank. And after Frank is Rose Scott.

MR. HEFFNER: Good evening. My name is Greg Heffner. I represent the Harrison County Economic Development Corporation. And I appreciate the opportunity to speak here this evening.

The purpose of the Mountain Valley Pipeline is to provide timely, cost-effective access to the growing demand for natural gas in the region. The construction phase of the Mountain Valley Pipeline project would generate about $811 million of capital expenditure to the area, $47,000 in state and local tax revenue, and 45,000 jobs. West Virginia simply cannot
afford to miss out on this unique opportunity. Once operational, the project will provide significant tax revenues to the local governments throughout its lifetime.

While large-scale construction projects temporarily disrupt the environment, they are necessary to meet the growing demand for energy, not only in West Virginia, but across the country. The construction of projects like this are governed by a multitude of state and federal agencies, which will help assure that they are built in a responsible fashion.

I absolutely support the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline because of the economic opportunities and the enhanced quality of life that it has the potential to offer.

EQT has an outstanding reputation for doing things the correct way. They've been a neighbor here in Northcentral West Virginia and across the region for many years. I'm confident that they will execute this project in an environmentally safe and responsible manner.

I would encourage the West Virginia DEP to approve the permits currently under review. Thank you.

MR. GLANCE: Next is Frank Guzzi. After
Frank is Rose Scott. And Rose is the last person that's currently here that has signed up to speak. So if there's anybody who wants to sign up to speak after Rose, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the room.

MR. GUZZI: Joe Guzzi.

MR. GLANCE: Joe?

MR. GUZZI: Yes.

MR. GLANCE: Here's Joe, okay. Does Frank not want to speak?

MR. GUZZI: No.

MR. GLANCE: Okay.

MR. GUZZI: There's no doubt that this pipeline is going to bring a lot of money into the state and some jobs. If you're one of the ones out there that owns property, you've already heard how they'll come in, they'll do some damage, then we'll fix it and make it good as new. That's the good side of the story.

Now, let me tell you the other side of the story, because I own property. And Dominion Gas came to me two years ago, asked permission in March when everything was froze if they could drive over my gravel road, one mile of road that my brother and I take care of. Three families live at the end of it, it dead ends. No way in and no way out.
And Dominion comes, we gave them permission. No problem. When they come in in March, everything is frozen. And they would want to tram their equipment in that weighs 30 tons. We never heard from them again. Found out in April when everything thawed out, they came. They brought their equipment in on a trailer, which concentrates all the weight over the wheels.

And now I've got a road that my vehicle's that way (indicating) when I drive up it. It's caving in. We've got the side that goes down the hill, we used to take the tractor, you can't go it anymore or you'll upset and die.

And we argued with Dominion now for two years. And their response, good neighbors. They do a lot for Clarksburg, this school. But when you live out in the country, you don't see $25,000 sent to your park or your school. It's your property they're building on.

And their response has been, up to this point, I've had two letters from lawyers. They said they won't take responsibility for a road that it was a dirt road that two-wheel drive couldn't get over, that I drive a motorcycle over now. It's gravel. They're not paying for it. They won't take responsibility because they said
we sent our engineers out there. And it was never compacted for heavy equipment.

But in the same letter, and I've got two of them. I've got one from Stefano Johnson and Jacqueline Wilson. They're lawyers. And both of them said don't try to stop us. We've got the right to use that. We've got right-of-way. And we're going to use it. But they say they won't take responsibility because it wasn't built for that.

Well, you know, I've got a wife --- well, we've got to get in and out of that road. We've got to get in and out to eat. When that road caves in, I'm going to have to walk a mile, if I can get my truck out and my car, and leave into the gravel road. And that's Dominion. That's your good neighbor Dominion.

Not for the schools, not for Clarksburg, not for all this money. It's the people out there with the property. You better make sure --- you know the pipeline's going to go. But they ought to take responsibility of any damages. They have to come back ten years from now because, you know what? Ten years ago, it probably didn't look like that. But once they put that pipeline in --- they've already had, I've seen it all over, slips, spills, water running all over the
I'm just going to tell you that's your good neighbor Dominion. I'll tell you what Dominion cost me. The damage that was estimated by the DEP was around $35,000 to get it fixed and working. Guess what? It cost me $5,000 for a lawyer to try to get Dominion to do something. That's their attitude on this.

And it's not going to be any different. Why would it be different? Why would it be different on your property for the new pipeline than it is for the ones that are existing? They think that the old pipelines, that people should expect from them, well then, you make your decision.

MR. GLANCE: Up next, Rose Scott. There's also Phil Mallow has put possibly to speak.

MR. MALLOW: Thank you.

MS. SCOTT: I just want to say a few things. I know that everyone sees the pipeline as an economic advantage for West Virginia. And certainly I can understand that. We all favor the economic advancement of West Virginia and jobs in West Virginia. Nobody can argue against that.

But I don't think that that's --- you know, it's a short-term view. Because in all reality,
West Virginia has and its strongest gift is its natural resources. And putting more pipelines in West Virginia and these large pipelines --- and there are three major pipelines that are planned for West Virginia. They're crossing through not through the Ohio River, but multiple streams and wetlands.

So the DEP's job is to ensure that those wetlands and streams are protected. And when the pipeline goes through, there have to be permits that are issued. And in order for those permits to be issued, the company has to ensure that their plan meets the criteria for the protection of those bodies of water.

And I've reviewed those in brief. Not in utter detail, but from what I could see when they talk about the Greenbrier River they say, oh, you know, the pipeline crossing the Greenbrier River is only going to effect it for the period of time in which we are constructing the pipeline going across.

So it's just, they're just looking at that short, brief period of time. They're not looking at the long-term, and certainly not looking at this large scale construction project that's going through. And also not really addressing this large project going through wetlands, which are very sensitive areas.
And to me, you know, our forests, our streams, all these things really need to be protected and preserved. And you know, putting in huge pipelines that cut through the wetlands, streams and rivers and potentially damaging our waterways is not really worth such short-term gain.

And honestly, you know, the oil and gas companies that are planning these pipelines pretty much just assume that they're going to be able to put the pipelines in. Because basically, they have already been compressing the gas and storing it to be able to press through these pipelines. So they pretty much already planned that they are going to be able to build these pipelines.

They have already been fracking the gas and storing it to be able to push through these huge pipelines. So basically, they're assuming that they are going to be building them without regard for whether or not they are actually going to get this permission to do so.

So basically, irregardless of our natural resources in the state of West Virginia, they're going to proceed, I think. I mean, I understand what you're saying that, you know, you're doing the best you can to
make sure that all the permits are put into place. And I understand that and, you know, I think that's great. That's good that that's being done.

And I understand what you're saying that, you know, it's important for jobs. And I agree with that, too. But somewhere, there's got to be a balance struck. If that means going a little bit further to try to protect the streams and waterways, then I think that that is what needs to be done. Because honestly, those impact statements do not go far enough.

And I urge the DEP do not, do not approve these permits the way they are now because they do not go far enough to mitigate the wetlands, to mitigate these stream crossings. It needs to go further. Thank you.

MS. PHILLIPS: Can I respond?

MR. GLANCE: Yes, if you'd like to sign up, yes.

MS. PHILLIPS: I'm a citizen of ---.

MR. GLANCE: Let me get you signed in first.

MS. PHILLIPS: Okay.

MR. GLANCE: You can go on stage or you can stay here at the front, whatever want.

PASTOR PHILLIPS: Oh, I'm good here. My
name is Pastor Tammy Phillips and I'm from Martinsville, West Virginia. I'm originally from Harrison County. My father --- my father's family has made their living in the natural gas business.

And as a pastor, I will speak to you and say to you that it is very, very important that we be good stewards of the land that God has given us. And I believe that with my whole heart. But I want to say and speak to you as a person who has lived in the area where they have done drilling and fracking and where they have put pipelines in, that it isn't always bad.

I've lived in Wallace, West Virginia for 11 years. And in that area, I lived on the highway that the State of West Virginia had never attended to for 80 years. There was a path. And it went from Harrison County in Wallace all the way to Center Point in Doddridge County.

And they ran a great big pipeline that the tied in. And right down the road from me was Hastings and it is a major hub where you talked about where they hold that gas, compress it --- it's a compressing station.

But I will tell you that what they did when they came in to our community was phenomenal. They
came in and fixed roads that hadn't, like I said, hadn't been seen a touch from the State of West Virginia 80 years.

They came in to farmers and provided them with flood control for their bottoms and fields that they had never enjoyed. They came in and made it possible for employment to come to young men in the community where we're 20 miles from everything to have employment and to be viable. So it is very important. And when it is done correctly, it is fabulous.

My church was blessed to receive mineral rights as a gift from one of our members who passed away. We actually didn't even know he had it until some people found it. And they were going through the books to say look, we're willing to talk to these people about, you know, getting on this property.

And I understand, that means that you have to talk to all of the people involved. But long story short, there was several little companies that come in. And they all want to take their dollar, I understand, sometimes on that first offer. You need someone who's reputable, responsible, who's accountable.

And a lady from Chesapeake Energies came into us. She went through the process with us. She went
to the courthouse with us. She brought grants into us. She sat with our neighbors who still live on the property and explained to us how that they would treat them right. Because we would sign no contracts until we knew that our neighbors were treated fairly, the people who still live on that land. And that they were going to be taken care of financially, that their land would be taken care of.

If they said my house is there so you can't put a drill pad there, there was not going to be a drill pad there. If they said I have a well here and I need to make sure that you're going to promise me that that water's not going to be contaminated, they said we promise. We can situate it in a place where it's not going to be contaminated. And we set out and we negotiated it. And it wasn't something that happened overnight and it should not.

It all comes to all of us as citizens being educated and accountable for what goes on. Because listen, young people in West Virginia need jobs to take care of their families. We have to have it. I have children and grandchildren. This is how they feed my grandchildren. This is what provides their medical care and things of that nature. And that's important. But I also know that it has to be done properly.
So what it comes down to is we as a society, as a community working and living together, come together and say listen, we're going to sit down and educate one another. We're going to work together. If our neighbors, if we owned the mineral rights to where our neighbors live, we're going to take care of them. We're not going to go into something willy-nilly. We're going to say, hey, neighbor, come on down and let's talk. How can this be beneficial for everybody? How can it be beneficial for West Virginia? Because as you can see, nobody's knocking down the door to bring industries into this state and we need jobs. And there's a lot of other affiliated businesses that will come for this pipeline. And it's important. It is vital.

You cannot feed your family working at Wendy's or Walmart. You have to have something where there is a future. And these jobs don't just stop when that pipeline is done. And in West Virginia, like I said, my family has been doing this forever. My grandfather had a shop in Clarksburg for 90 years.

And I am going to tell you, you have to take care of families. You have to. We have to do this or it's going to disappear. It's going to dry up and there will be nothing there. So we need to stand up and
take care of West Virginia. It's important that we take
care of West Virginia.

So I urge you to consider --- I understand what you're saying because it's important that we take
care of the thing God gave to us. It's a wonderful gift. But he also gave us coal and natural gas and oil.

It's phenomenal to see young men working. Like to hear my sons when they tell me, mom, I'm working. It's important. And it's also important to see the farmers where I live in Wallace have flood control in those plains. They have cattle in those fields.

They replanted every tree of my neighbor's hillside. And they put grass that was good for the deer to allow for the animals in the area that were indigenous to the area. So they took care of them. It's called being accountable. You have to know what's going on.

We have to form committees. We have to take care of one another. And say if they're going to go out in your own, if they cut through your field and they're going to put a drill pad, if someone is working, go over and check on them. Make sure they're doing what they're supposed to do. We can do that. We have a right to do that.

Be wary. Educate your neighbors. Say if
somebody come and said they're going to give me money. Really, did you take it to lawyer? No. Well, let me take you. I'll give you a ride. Take them in and make sure they get what's really supposed to be theirs. That's how we make this because when we do this together and we're accountable, it's all about accountability, folks.

West Virginia has just let people walk over us for too long. We have to be accountable. But we still need prosperity. We deserve prosperity. We deserve jobs. We deserve a tax base that's going to give our children better education.

So why can't we do this? We can do this well if we, the community, come together. Hold them accountable. Make them fix those drains. Make them replant those trees. Make sure that they have looked every way to find out how to get around those waterways and take care of them. Because I know that they can.

And there's another thing that we should know as far as taking care of waterways. My son works in this industry. My son went to a job after they, his company, had spent several million dollars on a job and said you have to take it all up because your wetlands that have been drained and dry for 50 years. Now, is
that fair for a company to put millions of dollars into a piece of property and work but they had to take it all up because the Ritchie County sheriff locked it up and said, oh, you can't go there.

See it happens on both ends. We have to protect it. But we can't be silly about it either. Wasting money and losing jobs. Because let me tell you, if there's no jobs ---. If we don't sustain West Virginia, there will be no West Virginia. We'll be a national park.

MR. GLANCE: Next is Richard Swiger.

MR. SWIGER: Do you want me to come up there?

MR. GLANCE: If you'd like, that would be good.

MR. SWIGER: I'm not going to --- I don't have all that much to say. I just wanted to make a statement. I've done this work my whole life. That's my cousin. Like she said, my whole family, that's what we've done. You know, we've been pipelayers.

So I'm sure here everybody's going to say, oh, that's one side of it. You know, you're coming from one side. But you know, I just want you to know we're not the type of people --- you know, we don't want to see
our environment destroyed. We have children and grandchildren.

And in all the years that I've done this work, I've watched it from the time I started to now change toward the environment. And I mean, the safety, just everything. I mean, these companies, they spend millions and millions of dollars on, you know, just trying to take care of the environment, the animals, the wildlife, the waterways.

They make sure everything is put back. We have the inspectors on --- I mean, you know, it's hard to --- pretty much every man out there has somebody watching him. It's not like we're out there just free for all. There's somebody watching over you at everything you do.

And I mean, these pipelines are put in there to last. It's not like the old days, you know, 100 years ago when they throw them in the ground just wanting to get the gas. I mean, these things are put in there to last our lifetimes and many more.

And I've seen it. I mean, I've done it since I was a kid. And I've watched it change over the years. And I'm just here to tell you, it's not going to harm us. It's going to be good for us. We actually --- we need as many of them as we can get. They can put one
right in my backyard and I'll sleep like a baby every night.

    I mean, you know, the work's done professional. Go look at one. Go watch one be installed. You know, educate yourself on it and see the professionalism out there. I mean, that's all you have to do. That's all I've got to say. You know, I just wanted to get my point on. And I thank you all.

    MR. GLANCE: Anybody else who's here who wishes to speak? Did you sign in?

    MR. CHONG: No, there's isn't any paper.

    MR. GLANCE: What's your name?

    MR. CHONG: Charles Chong.

    BRIEF INTERRUPTION

    MR. CHONG: I'll try. My wife and I live at the opening of a 220-acre hollow on Halls Run in Harrison County. When we found out that the Mountain Valley Pipeline would run over a mile on the ridge above our property, we had a hydrogeological study on the effects that the pipeline construction would have on the quality and flow of water into the stream in our hollow.

    Dr. Pamela Dodds, who conducted the study, after observation and computations concluded that the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline on our
property would result in degradation and negative impacts
to the water resources of our hollow.

I submit a copy of her report. And I will
note that the study was done before the Mountain Valley
Pipeline added another 1,000 feet to the proposed
pipeline on our ridges.

I would like to turn to the effects of the
Mountain Valley Pipeline on Halls Run. Halls Run is a
stream which runs through its own hollow. From where it
begins, it runs north about three miles before it empties
into Lake Floyd. Lake Floyd is a man-made lake about a
mile long and it's surrounded by homes in which live the
residents of the Lake Floyd community. The dam for the
lake sits below Route 50.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline will come
down the hillside below the headwaters for Halls Run,
cross Halls Run and then run up the hillside on the other
side to the ridge, which is on the south of our property.
The proposed pipeline will then turn west, run on the
ridge, clear around the back of our property, and then
along the ridge north of our property for a distance of
about 7,000 feet.

From the border of our property, it will
continue to run on the ridges above Halls Run for about
three miles. And then from the southern end of Lake Floyd, turn down the other side of the hill to Raccoon Run where it will cross Route 50.

Now, how big an area will the Mountain Valley Pipeline affect along Halls Run? I figure it will run about five miles from where it crosses, comes down hill, across Halls Runs and then along the ridges to Lake Floyd.

So if you multiple 5,280 by five and then by 50, which is the 50 feet, which is the permanent easement area, that comes to 1,320,000 square feet or 30.3 acres. To visualize how big this is, this is 22.9 football fields, including the end zones.

For than 125-foot construction right-of-way, the affected area would increase to 75.8 acres or 57 football fields. So if you imagine 57 football fields straight along those five miles, you get an idea of the area that will be affected by the pipeline construction.

Now, what is the effect on the ground that is affected by the construction? This is how Mountain Valley Pipeline describes the construction of the pipeline along ridges. And this is their own words from their resource report. Clearing, grading, equipment
movement accelerates the erosion process. Compaction decreases infiltration, increases the potential for erosion.

Construction equipment traveling over wet soils could disrupt soil structure, reduce pore space, increase runoff potential and cause running. Dr. Dodds who did our report describes these effects from construction as resulting in impervious ground cover.

So what can we expect from the construction of pipeline along this right-of-way on the ridges where the trees have been removed and the natural soil has been replaced with impervious ground? When it rains, especially with heavy and persistent rains, more water will flow off the easement than when the ground was in its natural state.

This increased water flow will find its way into existing gullies and create new gullies with its accompanying increased erosion. And that result will be an increase of water flowing into the streams compared to the amounts before the construction of the pipeline.

Our homestead is at the opening of the hollow where our stream flows into Hall Run. It is next to the lowest ground on our property. Already during heavy, persistent rains, we have flooding in our barn a
lot and in front of the barn. The side and front fields and of our driveways.

Even a small increment in water flow from the construction of Mountain Valley Pipeline could lead to actual property damage of our homestead from flooding. There are also homes below us on Halls Run, which are likely to experience property damage from flooding if water flow increases into Halls Run during rain.

How is water quality affected? From the increased runoff from rains, there will be erosion of hillsides and of the stream banks. This increased runoff will increase sediments flowing into streams.

Also, water runoff is lost downstream. This is water that does not perforate into the ground water. During dry periods, the water table will drop below previous levels depriving springs and seepages of water which would otherwise feed streams during dry periods, resulting in deteriorated water quality during these times.

I would next like to turn to the effects of the Mountain Valley Pipeline on water flow and quality of Ten Mile Creek. Ten Mile Creek begins in the southern part of Harrison County and flows north to Lumberport, where it turns east and flows into the West Fork. Halls
Run and Raccoon Run, which is on the other side of the ridge on the hill --- on the ridge where the Mountain Valley Pipeline will run above Halls Run, both flow into Ten Mile Creek.

South of us, the Mountain Valley Pipeline will cross and effect the watersheds of Turtle Creek and Colburn Creeks, which come together to form Ten Mile Creek. North of Route 50, the Mountain Valley Pipeline runs about 60 miles before crossing into Wetzel County and will affect the watersheds for the following streams and their tributaries, Cherry Camp Run, Salem Fork, Indian Run, Grass Run, Rock Camp Run, Little Rock Camp Run, Isaac Creeks, Little Elk Creek and Little Ten Mile Creek.

All these streams flow into Ten Mile Creek. They provide most of the water flow into Ten Mile Creek from the west. The watersheds of all the streams will be affected by the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

In conclusion, I feel that the Mountain Valley Pipeline should not be issued the stormwater permit and possibly the water quality permit until all waterways like Ten Mile Creek, which the watersheds are extensively affected by the Mountain Valley Pipeline, are identified. And a cumulative possible negative effects
of the pipeline on water flow and quality of these water ways are assessed.

MR. GLANCE: Okay. Anybody else wishing to speak tonight? I think what we might do, since it's still --- it's not even seven o'clock yet, give some people more time to get here.

In the meantime, I just want to push pause on the public hearing for about maybe 10 or 15 minutes. And in that time, can we have all the people from DEP raise your hands? These folks are here to answer your questions about the Mountain Valley Pipeline, on the maps, on the walls.

So for the next 10 or 15 minutes while we wait to give more people a chance to get here, ask these folks questions. They'll be able to answer your questions. So we'll come back here in about 10 or 15 minutes; okay?

SHORT BREAK TAKEN

MR. GLANCE: Okay, everyone. We're going to rejoin this thing here, everybody. Has anybody else signed up to speak? Okay. Could I ask one more time if there's anybody here that after speaking with the DEP folks, they wanted to comment here tonight?

Okay. Well, this concludes the public
hearing on the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Please remember that you can still submit written comments until March 19th using the e-mail address dep.comments@wv.gov. Thank you for your participation and have a nice evening.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 7:14 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify, as the stenographic reporter, that the foregoing proceedings were taken stenographically by me, and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under my direction; and that this transcript is a true and accurate record to the best of my ability.

I certify that the attached transcript meets the requirements set forth within article twenty-seven, chapter forty-seven of the West Virginia Code.

Sara Toomey,
Court Reporter