

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20426

August 11, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Richard E. Huff, II
County Administrator
Franklin County
1255 Franklin St., Suite 112
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

Dear Administrator Huff:

Thank you for your June 17, 2015, letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding the natural gas pipeline project across portions of West Virginia and Virginia proposed by Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC in Docket No. PF15-3-000.

On April 17, 2015, the Commission issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI). The NOI established a 60-day scoping period that concluded on June 16, 2015 and announced six public scoping meetings held in the project area. The meeting locations were selected to be convenient for the greatest number of people who might be interested in the project while recognizing the available resources of the Commission to conduct such meetings.

As detailed in the Notice, public scoping meetings are just one of the methods for the Commission to receive comments from the public. Stakeholders can also file written comments with the Commission. Comments received in this manner always receive the same attention and scrutiny as comments received at public meetings. Although we do not intend to extend the formal scoping period or hold additional scoping meetings, the Commission will accept and consider comments from any interested stakeholder at any time during the pre-filing and application review process. Furthermore, as a matter of policy, Commission staff continues to fully evaluate any comment received after the close of the comment period, making any formal extension of the comment period unnecessary.

All environmental comments will be considered and analyzed in the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to be produced by the FERC staff for this project. We are still in the pre-filing review process for the project, and a schedule for the draft EIS has not been determined yet, but it will not be issued until after a formal application has been filed by Mountain Valley. Additional public meetings

will be held in the project area to take comments on the draft EIS. After consideration of the comments received on the draft EIS, a final EIS will be issued.

The Commission will consider the findings of the final EIS before making its decision on whether or not to authorize this project. As in any Commission matter, please be assured that we strive to make our review of proposals both accessible and transparent to the public. If I can be of further assistance in this or any other Commission matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Norman C. Bay" followed by a checkmark.

Norman C. Bay
Chairman