



Miles Morin
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Dec. 22, 2016

Ms. Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline (Docket No. CP16-10-000)

Dear Ms. Bose:

On behalf of the Virginia Petroleum Council, I am writing to respectfully request the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

Natural gas is the cleanest burning fossil fuel, producing about half the carbon emissions of coal, and is very reliable and affordable. On a national level, carbon emissions from electricity generation are at 22-year lows, and overall energy-related carbon emissions dropped 12 percent below 2005 levels last year, according to the EIA. EIA credits this progress as primarily due to "increased use of natural gas for electricity generation." The U.S. has an abundant supply of natural gas, and the proposed MVP is integral to meeting existing and projected demand in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, including in Virginia. Businesses, especially manufacturing companies, look for access to natural gas when deciding where to locate, and Southwest Virginia in particular could benefit significantly from construction and operation of the MVP line.

Virginia's natural gas use is increasing, having grown more than 50 percent from 2004 to 2014. This growth in use corresponds with lower gas prices, which are saving customers money and spurring economic growth. For example, Virginia Tech's ongoing transition from coal to gas for heating and power will save the school an estimated \$1 million per year. Other commercial users, like public facilities and hospitals are seeing similar benefits. Increased supply will also help lower costs for consumers and manufacturers.

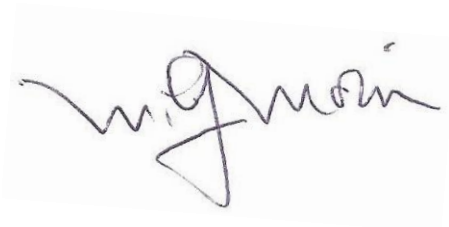
In fact, the MVP project will directly benefit individual residential customers, as one of the MVP project partners is an affiliate of Roanoke Gas Company, a local gas distributor. Roanoke Gas has announced plans to tap into the proposed line in two places to serve existing and new customers. One tap will be in Montgomery County. The other will be in Franklin County, near a new business park. Franklin County currently has no economically feasible access to natural gas. MVP would be a game-changer for that community.

Regarding FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), MVP has worked diligently to establish a route that both minimizes the project's impact on the environment and accommodates property owners' requests. As the DEIS shows, MVP has adopted 11 route alternative segments and 572 minor route variations in its design since July. Additionally, the DEIS appropriately credits MVP for its plans to mitigate potential effects on natural resources and finds that a majority of the project's environmental impacts would be "reduced to less than significant levels."

Natural gas is going to be an important part of the nation's energy portfolio for generations. We need to build infrastructure to get cleaner, cheaper fuel to market in order to help spur the economy and help consumers save money on fuel costs. The proposed MVP line would achieve these goals in a responsible manner.

Accordingly, the Virginia Petroleum Council supports the project and respectfully requests the commission act quickly to approve the MVP proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miles Morin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a distinct "Morin" ending.

Miles Morin
Executive Director
Virginia Petroleum Council