



Dear Dr. Wilkes:

The Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement #50036 proposes amendments to 11 crucial standards that are essential for protecting the Jefferson National Forest. The company's newly submitted documents do not provide sufficient assessment, monitoring, modeling, nor real-world analyses to support changes to the Forest Plan.

The Forest Service cannot be permitted to break 11 of its own rules as a convenience to the Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC, of which has been unable to meet basic minimum criteria to continue their project due to the environmental risks associated. These 11 proposed changes would be detrimental to the soil health, old-growth forest, species and preservation of the Jefferson National Forest.

Forest ecosystems are vulnerable, the negative environmental impacts cannot continue to be diminished. Old-growth forests play an imperative role in creating topsoil, and its loss alone cannot be mitigated and would impair biodiversity.

We implore the U.S. Forest Service to select Alternative (1) "No Action" and reject the proposed 11 changes.

Rewriting the rules for one fossil fuel project will set a disturbing precedent for what will be tolerated on national forests across the country. Since the production of this pipeline began, the applicant has demonstrated their inability to maintain proper and adequate environmental practices during construction. As a result, significant delays have arisen due to multiple federal authorizations vacated and the accrual of over 500 violations of permit conditions and environmental standards in Virginia and West Virginia.

Furthermore, the applicant has alleged the desire and need for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, of which is speculative and unproven. There are existing supply alternatives and market shifts towards non-fossil fuel alternatives.

For the reasons stated above, we again ask that the U.S. Forest Service selected Alternative (1) No for "No Action," and reject the 11 proposed amendments to prevent unnecessary damage to Jefferson National Forest.

Thank you.

The Green New Deal Network