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Organization: Pittsylvania

Title: Interim County Administrator/County Attorney

Comments: Dear Dr. Wilkes: This letter reiterates Pittsylvania County Virginia's ("County"), prior support for the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project ("MVP Project") and the need for this critical energy infrastructure project to be completed and brought into service to serve the public. As proposed, the MVP Project spans about 303 miles from northwestern West Virginia to the County. Work on the MVP Project began in 2018 and created thousands of jobs. This activity contributed significant tax revenue to the County and State. Today work on the MVP Project is nearly 94% complete with 90% of all pipeline work complete, and more than 50% of the right-of-way fully restored. Some stretches of the route remain unfinished, including sections in the County, and the County hopes that work is completed soon. The County further understands that cannot happen without reissuance of permits, including a permit to allow construction on about 3.5 miles of federal land in the Jefferson National Forest. The County also understands work in this area will be performed under close regulatory supervision and a thorough review of the MVP Project plans has shown this work can be done with limited impacts to the environment. The permit should be issued, and construction should proceed. The need for the MVP Project is even greater than it was in 2017 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") first concluded the MVP Project was needed to meet public demand for natural gas. In 2020, FERC renewed its finding and extended the MVP Project's certificate of public convenience and necessity. In 2022, FERC again renewed its findings and extended the validity of the certificate to 2026 to allow sufficient time for work on the project to be completed. The MVP Project's capacity remains fully subscribed, and demand for natural gas in this region is forecast to continue to grow. Completing the MVP Project, and fully restoring the right-of-way is the most effective way to prevent erosion and sediment control issues. It also will provide the public with greater access to an affordable, reliable, and domestic supply of natural gas, and the pipeline's operation will generate an additional \$10 million in estimated annual ad valorem tax revenue for Virginia localities along the route. This includes \$1.8 million anticipated annually for the County to devote to core services that benefit our residents. In closing, the County respectfully asks the Forest Service and other relevant federal agencies to expedite issuance of remaining outstanding permits for the MVP Project, so that this important project can be brought into service.