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First name: Paul

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Organization: Roanoke Gas

Title: President and CEO

Comments: Dear Under Secretary Wilkes:Roanoke Gas Company (Roanoke Gas) submits these comments to stress the need to complete this important infrastructure project and to support Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). Roanoke Gas is a local distribution company serving approximately 63,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in the greater Roanoke Valley of southwest Virginia. Roanoke Gas has provided natural gas service to this community for over 138 years and throughout this history has been and continues to be committed to: 1) serving its customers safely and reliably; 2) improving the economy; and 3) being good stewards of the environment and this place we call home. Those three commitments are the foundation of Roanoke Gas' support of the MVP. It is a simple and undeniable truth that this region, and Roanoke Gas and its customers, need the MVP to be completed.Like MVP, Roanoke Gas regularly installs and constructs pipeline facilities. Having witnessed MVP construction firsthand on numerous occasions, I recognize the MVP is being built using best practices and with multiple layers of oversight and protection, ensuring safe construction and protection of natural resources.Because of MVP's importance to Roanoke Gas, Southwest Virginia, and the mid-Atlantic region, I have closely followed the Forest Service's permitting process. I appreciate that the Forest Service has taken appropriate steps and measures to address the issues remanded by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and these steps are in conjunction with the very detailed Plan of Development prepared by MVP. I believe it is appropriate for the Forest Service to rely on this detailed and comprehensive Plan of Development in its Forest Plan amendments, which should be noted only affect 0.007% of the total National Forest during MVP's construction period. Further, the Fore st Service's thorough review of the sedimentation impacts has confirmed that short-term effects on water resources will be minor to moderate and long-term effects would be minor.Roanoke Gas respectfully requests that the U.S. Forest Service complete its detailed review and issue the requested Record of Decision to enable MVP to complete construction of this critical infrastructure project by the end of 2023.