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Title:

Comments: [External Email]Mountain Valley Pipeline's (MVP) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

[External Email]

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Dear US Forest Service Director,

Ice breaks mountains, continued[hellip]

Cultural History: The covered bridges of the same area attest to historical flooding that resulted from ice melting. Again, in these highland karst areas, redundant freeze-thaw events cause ice to form at the surface of the moist ground (or water) and then some of it melts part-way because the ground is warmer than freezing and maybe it rains so a "perched water table forms"; that is, liquid water below frozen ice and liquid water on top of the ice. Flash flooding can happen any time of year, but water wave "surges" six feet high can happen underground, confined and connected, in karst waterways and surge water into the open air can exceed six feet. Ice layers complicate how much liquid water is released from the karst geology during a thaw. Lakes of water can form above an ice-plugged outlet. That is a lot of water to prepare for in building a covered bridge. Trial and loss of previous bridges left the remaining existing covered bridges to be over eight feet high above Sinking Creek.

The Appalachian Trail is also part of the Ice on Sinking Creek Mountain story, for it was recently reported that iceflows had formed at the AT crossing of Sinking Creek Mountain, as well as where our observations were made, on the same day. That would perchance mean everyone hiking the AT at the right time has seen ice at the crest, and now an uncommon Winter hiker knowledge, in a common foot-traveler culture around here, adds to who shares an important window of time, to a cultural history and natural history of a place.

And, the source of drinking water for everyone in the Sinking Creek Valley is groundwater and springs, which is why the AT comes through here for a drink from a fresh mountain spring: unconfined, free, clean water, even at the summit.

CONCERNS

The ground movement concern with Ice is especially important because of MVP blasting of the mountain ridge in July 2018 de-stabilized the Sinking Creek Mountain on the northface near where blasting occurred at the ridge and between the ridge and through the sinkholeplain on the northface of the Sinking Creek Mountain flank. This poses a significant nexus to deny the entry of MVP to enter, construct or operate in the JNF; that is, gas might not ever get there, due to ice heaving the pipe right-out-of-the-ground or ice slipping large heavy pipes downhill in an unstoppable cascade into drinking water sources, or ice just breaking the welds and pitting-corroded pipes.

Significant dangers, all avoided by telling MVP, "No, the Jefferson National Forest is too dangerous for the MVP project."

Continuous water seep, subject to freeze-thaw, at crest of Sinking Creek Mountain where mvp project crosses from Private land in Craig County on northface of Sinking Creek Mountain to Jefferson National Forest on southside of the mountain crest, which was blasted through by mvp in 2018, without permits to do so. This is the area once considered the Exclusion Zone - not to be built or disturbed

Sincerely,

Nan Gray

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