Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2023 5:00:00 AM
First name: Nan
Last name: Gray
Organization:
Title:
Comments: [External Email]Mountain Valley Pipeline's (MVP) Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Dear US Forest Service Director,

Ice at the crest of Sinking Creek Mountain ridge

Physical Evidence of Ice

New information not before presented to FERC, Jefferson National Forest or Bureau of Land Management

January 2023. Based on new information and observations of ice, the mountain valley pipeline project should be denied entry and operation in the Jefferson National Forest, and I am asking the Forest Service to deny any pipeline ROW in JNF.

Ice that forms when soil freezes may push up little stones that "cap the ice crystals". Vertical ice crystal growth lifted North America's largest landslide and rafted it down the near-vertical rockface of the southside of Sinking Creek Mountain. As the ice melted, the lubrication of landmass (approximately 23 miles intact landslide) was unstoppable. Extreme temperature fluctuations still occur at Sinking Creek Mountain ridge and surrounding mountain ridges. Very Frigid temperatures with wind, in Wintertime, freezes surface water. Groundwater continues to flow as a liquid upon release from the ground pressure into the cold air and around any iceplug that forms, and then freezing too, extending the iceflow four and one-half feet wide and twenty feet long, down the mountain, on both sides of Sinking Creek Mountain, in this case. The little water seeps that occur all along the ridge crest of Sinking Creek Mountain, for nearly thirty miles, freeze, creating masses of ice in numerous, scattered places along the whole length of the ridge of Sinking Creek Mountain.

A site visit to steep Sinking Creek Mountain by those of us who live here, in Craig County, Virginia was conducted in early January 2023 during 50-60 degree Fahrenheit clear weather to observe any freeze-thaw activity after the prior week's frigid five (5) degree F windy cold weather; and to see if stress cracks were visible from ground heaving or creep.

The southside of the ridge of Sinking Creek Mountain slopes downhill at an 85% slope, 44 degree angle, almost vertical, and is a shear(ed) rockface scarp.

The crest of Sinking Creek Mountain marks a headwater Drinking Water Protection Zone, of the Eastern Continental Divide and the edge of Public Jefferson National Forest land. The easily eroded soils and rocks are protected from disturbance or development by the Forest Service Plan, the Clean Water Act and common sense.

The redundant freeze-thaw episodes and the water weight move exposed mineral soils and fill material in an act of erosion, uncontrolled, unconfined, unnoticed until ground movement becomes severe enough to change the surface topography and vertical displacement scarps form.

Ice grows horizontally out of the vertical face of scarps, with a stone on the end of what looks like an ice straw (with stone). When the solar warmth melts the ice, the stone drops.

Landslides have common indicators before detachment of ground is transported downhill by gravity or water weight, especially on mountain slopes greater than 35% (which is tough to walk upright).

Ground movement in

Sincerely,

Nan Gray

668 Happy Hollow rd

Newport, VA 24128