

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/8/2023 3:32:43 AM

First name: Stan

Last name: Farthing

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear colleagues:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline. I think that the pipeline should not be built.

In general, it seems to me that the pipeline doesn't make sense in an era of declining fossil fuel use. Further, I believe that most of what the pipeline would accomplish could be accomplished by railroad. If additional rail capacity needs to be built, that capacity would be available for transportation of other goods, whereas the pipeline could only be used for natural gas.

With respect to the Forest in particular, I do not believe that the pipeline can be constructed without significant damage to the Forest, in several different ways. First, even if the pipeline burrows under the Appalachian Trail, the Trail's viewshed would be degraded by the pipeline. Second, I do not believe that the pipeline can be constructed through waterways without unacceptable damage, especially with respect to siltation. Third, once the proposed pipeline is completed and operating, any damage to the pipeline, whether due to natural or human-made causes, could result in very significant damage to the Forest.

For these and other reasons, I believe that the public interest would be served by denial of the permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline to be constructed through the Jefferson National Forest.

Sincerely,

Rev. Stanley H. Farthing