

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2023 2:23:09 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the US Forest Service

February 19, 2023

Regarding Mountain Valley Pipeline

I urge you to take no action on the request to change the forest service plan to include permitting MVP to cross the Jefferson National Forest and Appalachian Trail.

The reasons are below:

1)Negative Environmental impact: Damaging sedimentation has already occurred in streams far downstream from the pipeline route. Danger to endangered plants and animals, impact of invasive species has already occurred. Toxic sludge in the pipe will accumulate once the LNG begins to flow and when the pipeline fails, it will present a massive cleanup requirement and who will be responsible for that?

2)No Public Benefit: Benefiting a private corporation who will be shipping domestic fossil fuels to Europe and Asia has no public benefit, workers to build and maintain the pipeline are not local and there is no local economic benefit. The increased road traffic and large equipment hauling has already presented road hazards on our narrow mountain roads. The road to fossil fuels is becoming a dead end if we are to mitigate climate change.

3)Interference with valuable water resources. Our water is our greatest resource and the impacts in Karst topography are un-knowable and un-mitigatable. Our pure water travels throughout these mountains long distances underground, and often horizontally, and even vertically as evidenced by the many seeps and ice floes coming out at the very top of the ridges. The forest service is entrusted to protect our natural resources and one of these is water. Most citizens in my valley depend on natural spring water from our vast karst aquifer.

4)Danger to local people. Most of the valleys the MVP crosses have only one route in for access. After seeing the limited access to earthquake victims in Turkey, a similar scenario could happen here in the event of a fire or leak in the Giles County Seismic zone. The danger of forest fire is great when the pipes become shaken in a quake or hit by a landslide. It's not a question of "IF" but "when". Our local first responders are not equipped to handle a pipeline emergency and their access will be extremely limited in this mountain topography.

I implore you to do the right thing and do NOT change the forest use plan under pressure from outside sources. Allowing MVP or any other pipeline to cross the Appalachian Trail and our national forest paves the way for further destruction of our natural resources and destruction of the scenic beauty of our world famous Appalachian trail.

Sincerely, Marjorie M Lewter