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Comments: To: United States Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

From: Michael Schenk

re: Mountain Valley Pipeline and Equitrans Expansion Project Supplemental EIS #50036

The US Forest Service must adopt Alternative 1: No Action for the Mountain Valley Pipeline due to seismic hazards in the area of Jefferson National Forest. This is an unstable and active seismic zone.

As recently as 2021, a small earthquake (magnitude 2.8 Richter) was detected in the region (https://www.bdtonline.com/news/giles-county-slightly-rattled-by-2-8-earthquake/article_ea3da290-e590-11eb-b2db-e7206408bf9d.html). There have been reports of earthquakes there going back to 1828. In 1897, USGS reports a 5.9 Richter quake in the area. I felt the shaking of the 5.8 Richter 2011 Louisa earthquake. That magnitude is not a minor event. In the steep and unstable terrain of the area (<https://www.usgs.gov/media/videos/blockslides-summit-grabens-and-collapsing-highwalls-appalachian-valley-and-ridge-using>), there is high risk of landslides and smaller earth movements sufficient to disrupt a pipeline due to seismic events.

It is extremely risky to route a pressurized pipeline carrying flammable and explosive methane through an active earthquake zone in unstable terrain. The Draft Supplemental EIS is not adequate in assessing this risk. The Forest Service must adopt Alternative 1: No Action.