



Preserve Craig ~ Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value

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Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room IA
Washington, DC 20426

REF: Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP);
Docket No. PF15-3-000

Dear Ms. Bose:

With this letter, Preserve Craig is filing a list of questions that must be addressed by MVP during the upcoming development of the Draft Environmental Impact Study. The questions were collected from residents of Craig County, collated, and asked at the MVP Open House that was held in New Castle, VA on 7 April 2015. They were repeatedly posed to the MVP representatives at the various information stations during the only MVP Open House held in Craig County.

We found it particularly disappointing that a very small percentage of the questions were answered by personnel present at the Craig County Open House. Many of the responses were “I don’t know” or “we don’t have that information” or “someone else will have to answer that question.” We attempted to collate and provide the answers but found the information so lacking that we are re-submitting these questions to the FERC. This lack of information is precisely the reason that residents of Craig County and surrounding counties as well as their Boards of Supervisors, have requested additional open houses, scoping meetings, and an extension of the EIS Scoping Period.

Given that the information was not provided during open houses, MVP must provide complete and detailed responses to questions that we’ve posed. We request that the FERC require MVP to respond accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

Steering Committee for Preserve Craig, Inc.

Enclosure

GENERAL

1. Why is updated information not being made publicly available?
2. What are the factors you consider most important in selecting the preferred route? Why and how did you pick the 110 routes through Craig County? Was this alt 110 route one of the original segment proposals that were evaluated last year?
3. Have you abandoned the route through Floyd? Why?
4. Why can't the pipeline be routed through existing right-of-ways?
5. Once MVP has this land in its control, can MVP come back and put in another pipeline without landowner permission. Can MVP sell the pipeline (and the easements) to another interested party? Would the landowners have any say so? Compensation? Can other utilities be put there?
6. Who maintains the records of where the pipeline is?
7. Why must the pipeline terminate in Pittsylvania County, VA? Won't some other location work as well, particularly if the flow is reversed?
8. What percentage of natural gas passing through the Mountain Valley Pipeline will be destined for export? Who has purchased the natural gas contracts?
9. What is the specific composition of the "natural gas" being transported through the pipeline: how much methane, ethane, propane, butane, olefins, nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides and hydrides; organic amines and sulfides, etc. If you don't know, how can I find out?
10. How long do you expect gas to be produced at the current rate from this shale area? I understand from other sources that this field will be mostly played out in 10 – 20 years. Then what happens to the pipeline? If the pipeline is abandoned, does the property revert to the landowner in full? What is the anticipated lifetime that the pipe line will be functional?
11. How many large pipelines are being planned from the Marcellus Shale? Do you think they will all be built? Are you trying to get yours approved before the others?
12. What procedures are in place for resolving disputes between landowners and MVP?
13. What happens when disputes occur? Has your company ever had a problem with the gas pipeline construction or presence of the gas pipeline causing spring, well or creek contaminations? If a landowner suspects a change in a spring or well has occurred what is the process for obtaining compensation and to settle disputes? What is MVP's responsibility if my spring water supply is contaminated by construction and subsequent operations – for example the use of defoliant, other pesticides, to control plant growth along the pipeline path etc; and subsurface contamination?
14. How close is blasting allowed to our personal water supplies (springs and wells)?

15. What size pipelines have you built? Is it true that the companies involved in the construction of this pipeline have never built, operated, or maintained a 42" line of this type – or even a 30" line? What is largest and longest pipeline you have ever built? Where is it?
16. How many workers will be in the area? I've heard 800 – 1000. Where will you house them?

CONSTRUCTION

1. What days of the week and what hours of the day do pipeline construction happen? Is blasting done? How is equipment staging handled?
2. What backfill material will be used? Will there be any material trucked in for backfill?
3. At what intervals will compressor stations be needed?
4. Will there be a compressor station in Craig County, Monroe County or Montgomery County?
How far from homes and businesses?
5. How far apart are the above ground valves? Is there a danger of having them damaged by livestock or farm equipment? If they have to be fenced, who pays for that?
6. At what intervals will additional land beyond the 150 foot right of way be needed for staging areas? What is the width required for going up steep slopes on the Sinking Creek Mountain? What is the maximum width of the construction allowed through the National Forest?
7. How close is blasting allowed to be done to individual water supplies?
8. What methods are used to examine the external integrity of the pipe after construction and how often are "tests" carried out and to whom are the results given?
9. What about the timber cut from the right of way? Will it be 300 feet? Will that timber be sold? Who will get the payments from that?
10. It seems there was no effort made to impact how many homes affected in the short run; for example, on Craig Creek Rd both alternates run down a road full of houses rather than straight across from one mountain to another? Is it because they go through land that is already cleared? Are you taking advantage that we have cleared our fields- is that part of the consideration in line drawing?
11. What are the slope angles here?
12. Who will inspect and certify that the pipeline is laid correctly?
13. How much experience do you have building on steep slopes?
14. Are there special design features for the steep slopes? How do you lay pipe in a rock bed?
15. How can remediation be expected to work on steep slopes? How will slope failures be mitigated?

16. How will you handle caves, sinkholes, creeks, cemeteries, historical sites, and farm structures?
Do you fill the sinkholes and the caves? Fill with what? Will it leach into the water? If it does, what recourse do we have?
17. This place is in an active seismic zone. What are the extra safety features MVP will incorporate for our area?
18. How will the pipeline be constructed to prevent erosion? What will be used on the land for control of vegetation?
19. Will you rebuild my cattle fences and can I access this property during and after construction?
20. What can and cannot happen on the right of way after construction, e.g., what kind of tractors and equipment can be driven on it?
21. Do you move equipment and pipes along the construction path from a road or do you anticipate using individual driveways to each property?

ENVIRONMENTAL/ NATURAL RESOURCES

1. If the pipeline wins approval to be constructed, what are the environmental impacts (air, noise, water, and waste) associated with the compressor stations?
2. How will the AT be crossed?
3. Why did you propose a route through a wilderness area on alt 110?
4. What is EQT's environmental record as a company?
5. Are you aware of the geologic landslides here and how will you compensate for them?
6. Where will teams be located to respond to right of way problems? How will erosion and claims of damage to land be fixed and how fast will responses occur?
7. Will you install emissions controls that provide the lowest achievable emissions rates (LAER)? If not, why not?
8. How will you avoid disturbing the endangered Spiny mussel and nesting Bald eagles?

ECONOMICS

1. What amount of money will MVP pay our county to transmit gas/liquid across the land? Will compensation be based on volume or linear foot of pipeline and will that compensation be for as long as the pipeline stays in the ground? Or just until the pipeline company uses it to transmit gas/liquid?
What will the pipeline cost? What is the cost of the second best alternative?

2. What additional construction will be required for a community to use the gas from this pipeline?
How much will this cost?
3. Have any communities contracted to use the gas from this pipeline?
4. Why does your literature suggest that there would be a benefit to Craig County by connecting the pipeline to New Castle? What would be the cost of such a connection?
5. How many households are in New Castle?
6. What size pipe for local access?
7. Will a pipeline affect my homeowners insurance? Some homeowner's insurance policies have clauses about restricting industrial use of land; have you had specific instances of homeowners who have had their insurance rates increased, or their policies canceled because of your pipeline on their property?
8. Have you had any homeowners who had their mortgages called in because of the devaluing of their property due to the pipeline?
9. Pipelines have lowered the property values of the surrounding residential communities in other regions. Has this been studied for the MVP impacted communities? What average reduction in home value should be anticipated?
10. Will you be securing permanent bonds to cover any damages or costs? Will those bonds be in place for the life of the pipeline until the pipeline is removed?
11. How much money will be spent on developing fossil fuel infrastructure and how much will be spent on renewable resource infrastructure by EQT in the next year?
12. Will Craig County be permitted to tax the value of pipelines located in the national forest?
13. How much of this gas will be sent to the SW? How much will be liquefied and exported?
14. How many local people will be hired for the construction phase? The maintenance phase?

SAFETY

1. How will the trucks transporting the pipe get into Johns Creek and Sinking Creek Safely? Will there be assurance that there will be no large truck traffic when school buses are running?
2. What size trucks will be required to transport pipe and equipment? Are you aware that our roads and bridges cannot handle large trucks and heavy equipment? Will our roads and bridges be improved to handle these?
3. How quickly can the gas be stopped should a leak be discovered? How often is the pipeline monitored for leaks?
4. Prolonged low-level exposure to methane is reported by other communities to cause fatigue, pneumonia, and loss of appetite, headaches, irritability, poor memory, and dizziness. What is the safe level of exposure to methane since methane will be released to the air by routine blow-downs and leakage? When safe levels are exceeded, how will EQT respond?
5. Who is responsible for controlling a forest fire should one occur from a gas explosion?

6. If computers control shut-off valves to control loss from leaks, what is MVP's backup plan if a leak occurs and the electricity is out (due to ice, for example)? It goes out frequently out in the country.
7. How does MVP plan to help our responders on one side of the pipeline construction take care of emergencies on the other side of construction?
8. The companies involved in this project have a rather deplorable reputation regarding chemical spills, ground water contamination, etc., (PA cases and various EPA fines) how can the landowners in Craig be assured that similar occurrences will not happen in the envisioned project?
9. How close can you build to a home?
10. How close can a compressor station be to a home?
11. What is EQT's safety record?
12. Are there any outstanding civil or criminal charges pending against EQT?
13. What is the noise level? Decibels and frequency, maximum? Average? Can you relate this to a sound we are familiar with? Can this be reduced? If varies, why and when? Do they vent the air pressure? How noisy is that? When? What is the decibels/frequency on that? Can they use a gas silencer? Does the line vibrate? How is that felt above ground? Details? Why can't they reduce the regular noise level of the line with coatings on the pipe? Because too costly?
14. What would it take to disrupt the integrity of the structure of the pipeline? (e.g., gunshot to exposed surface or seismic/ ground fault/ karstic collapse/ shift of 8-12 inches in displacement/ corrosion/ erosion/ another construction project?
15. What radius is the blast zone should an explosion occur from a 42 inch gas pipeline?

AFTER CONSTRUCTION

1. Will the pipeline be accessed regularly for inspections? Will the route be patrolled? How often?
2. Will roads be maintained along the route? How high and with what frequency will aerial surveys occur?
3. What are the needs for roads and access routes over my property during and after construction? Will access routes be permanent? Who maintains the access routes?
4. What methods are used to examine the external integrity of the pipe after construction and how often are "tests" carried out and to whom are the results given?
5. Who is responsible for controlling a forest fire should one occur from a gas explosion and is it different in one of the Wilderness designated areas?