

BEFORE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

IN RE:

MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE OIL &
GAS CONSTRUCTION STORMWATER GENERAL
PERMIT NO. WVR310667;
MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE STATE
401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION
WQC-16-0005; AND
MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE, LLC
NATURAL STREAMS PRESERVATION
ACT PERMIT NSP-17-0001

HELD MARCH 6, 2017
WEBSTER COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
COWEN, WEST VIRGINIA

6:00 P.M.

Donna H. Miller
Court Reporter

CAPITOL CITY REPORTING
"PROFESSIONAL STENOMASK FOR THE RECORD"

A P P E A R A N C E S

ON BEHALF OF THE DEP:

JAKE GLANCE
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DENNIS STOTTLEMYER
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ON BEHALF OF DIVISION OF
WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:

LAURA COOPER
WILMA REIP
NANCY DICKSON

P R O C E E D I N G S

1 MR. GLANCE: Good evening. I am Jake
2 Glance from the Department of Environmental
3 Protection's Public Information Office. Welcome to
4 tonight's public hearing on the Mountain Valley
5 Pipeline's Oil and Gas Construction Stormwater
6 Permit, State 401 Water Quality Certification, and
7 the Natural Streams Preservation Act Permit for the
8 Mountain Valley Pipeline.

9 Also here this evening are Dennis
10 Stottlemeyer from the Office of the Environmental
11 Advocate. He's out front with everybody. Laura
12 Cooper from the Division of Water Waste Management;
13 Jeremy Bandy with Environmental Enforcement is here.
14 Also Wilma Reip and Nancy Dickson from the Division
15 of Water Waste Management, and there's a few other
16 people in the back. So if you want to, while we are
17 doing this, feel free to go back and learn more
18 about the permits.

19 The purpose of tonight's hearing is to
20 give you the opportunity to share your comments with
21 the DEP about the permits for the Mountain Valley
22 Pipeline.

23 Tonight's hearing is being recorded by

1 a court reporter so that the comments shared can be
2 part of the public rulemaking record.

3 To ensure that we successfully achieve
4 the purpose of this hearing, we ask that everyone be
5 respectful and considerate of each other by
6 refraining from interrupting others while they are
7 speaking, and keeping your comments on topic so that
8 our time together is used efficiently.

9 We don't have that many people signed
10 up to speak. I think we have six. So I think the
11 time limit for each person when giving their public
12 comments will be five minutes per person. For those
13 wishing to speak, when I call you up to provide your
14 comments, please state your name and say if you are
15 representing any groups or organizations.

16 If you have written comments that you
17 would like to submit in addition to or in addition
18 to your spoken comments, please hand them to me
19 after you speak or at the conclusion of the hearing.

20 If no one has any questions about the
21 hearing format, we will begin with our first
22 speaker. Any questions?

23 What we are going to do, I'll call the
24 first name, and if you would, the reason why we have

1 it set up like we do, is so people can come up and
2 talk one-on-one with the court reporter while
3 everybody else talks to people from the DEP to learn
4 about the pipeline. So, you'll be coming up here to
5 come to sit one-on-one with the court reporter to
6 make your public comments.

7 So, any questions about the public
8 format?

9 SPEAKER: So we won't be able to hear the
10 comments?

11 MR. GLANCE: If it's going to be quiet
12 enough you'll be able to hear them. They will be
13 coming up here. The first person is David
14 Butterworth.

15 David, come up and have a seat with the
16 court reporter. Up next is Jeffrey Todd. Then
17 after Jeffrey is Lance Morgan.

18 MR. DAVID BUTTERWORTH: My name is David
19 Butterworth. I'm a business agent for Pipeliners
20 Local 798. I would like to speak this evening about
21 the quality, safety and training that Local 798
22 brings to the table during the construction of
23 pipeline projects such as the Mountain Valley
24 Pipeline. I represent 6,000 welders, helpers and

1 journeymen who live all over the United States. My
2 jurisdiction runs from Maine to Virginia, and there
3 are around 1,000 of our members who live and work in
4 this northeast jurisdiction.

5 Local 798 has built most of the major
6 pipelines that run across this nation, including the
7 Alaska Pipeline which was built in the 1970's.

8 I would now like to talk about the
9 quality of work and craftsmanship that Local 798
10 devotes to these projects. Our welder members must
11 take a qualification test before they are allowed to
12 weld on the pipeline. These qualification wells are
13 destructively tested, and if any imperfections are
14 found in the weld, that member is not allowed to
15 weld on the pipeline. If a member does pass the
16 qualification test, he then has every weld he makes
17 on the job x-rayed and reviewed by a Level III x-ray
18 technician who decides if the weld is acceptable and
19 stands up to a 1104 code. In most places if a
20 welder has three or more unacceptable welds, he will
21 be removed from that project. With these standards
22 in place, Local 798 welders are held under some of
23 the strictest guidelines in the construction
24 industry, and these are standards that we are proud

1 to uphold.

2 Now onto environmental and safety
3 training. Safety and environmental training is
4 something that Local 798 holds of the utmost
5 importance. Our contractors and the clients we work
6 for have extensive safety and environmental
7 awareness programs that protect our workers and the
8 land that we are working on. When these pipelines
9 are built, they are built by a collective group that
10 understands that when we build a pipeline, we must
11 build it safely with the least amount of
12 environmental impact possible, and everything else
13 is secondary to that.

14 Local 798 is home to one of the most
15 state of the art training facilities in the country.
16 We understand that we must keep up with the most
17 current procedures in an ever-changing industry.
18 Our facility has 52 welding booths and is equipped
19 with a 10-ton overhead crane so our members can
20 either brush up or learn new skills. The Local 798
21 training center is a testament to our dedication to
22 providing our members with the best of the best when
23 it comes to training so that they can apply the
24 latest technology when pipelines are built now and

1 in the future.

2 In closing I would like to say the
3 purpose of my speech is to show you who will be
4 building this pipeline and to assure you that it
5 will be built with highly trained, skilled, safe
6 American workers. I support the Mountain Valley
7 Pipeline and hope for swift approval of the permits
8 so the union members I represent can go to work on
9 this project.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. GLANCE: Up next is Jeffrey Todd, and
12 Lance Morgan is after Jeffrey, and after Lance is
13 Jason Lockhart.

14 MR. JEFFREY TODD: My name is Jeffrey
15 Todd. I am here today to voice my support for the
16 Mountain Valley Pipeline. I'm a lifelong resident
17 of West Virginia, and I've lived in various parts of
18 the state and seen numerous amounts of pipeline
19 activity through my years.

20 Generally speaking what I've seen it's
21 probably one of the least intrusive forms of energy
22 production and distribution. Typically
23 environmental impacts are low, and oftentimes
24 temporary. I also believe that with the pipeline,

1 the Mountain Valley Pipeline, it will help generate
2 tax revenue that our state desperately needs. I
3 also feel that, especially in counties like Webster
4 County, where natural gas is, I believe there is no
5 infrastructure, you know, it could help residents to
6 convert from heating oil and stuff that's much more
7 expensive and difficult on the rural parts of the
8 state.

9 So, with that being said, I think West
10 Virginia can only benefit from this project. I also
11 feel that in the long run, it could potentially help
12 to bring people into our state, which in turn could
13 generate more tax revenue that our state desperately
14 needs and help us to dig our way out of this deficit
15 that we are in.

16 That's all.

17 MR. GLANCE: Up next is Lance Morgan.
18 After Lance is Jason Lockhart, and then after Jason
19 is Nicholas Johnson.

20 MR. LANCE MORGAN: I don't know how to
21 speak on the project, but I'm an engineer by trade
22 and do a lot of pipeline work, and I know a lot of
23 the concerns with the pipeline is the construction
24 process itself. Pipeline work when done responsibly

1 has very limited impact on streams and natural
2 resources.

3 Land use for a big pipeline, and once
4 it's in the ground, you have an opportunity for
5 grazing. You just can't have trees or buildings on
6 it. I think the impact to the people, once the
7 pipeline is in place, should be minimal, and I think
8 it's important for West Virginia, it can be an
9 advantage having the Marcellus shale and the
10 pipeline run through the southern part of the state
11 to give us an edge for industry and cheaper fuel
12 source for people. I have natural gas in my house,
13 and it's a lot cheaper than electricity, and I think
14 that businesses once they -- we have a great
15 interstate network, and I think that bringing
16 another resource for them to use and build on for
17 businesses is very important for growth in the
18 southern part of the state. That's all I have.

19 MR. GLANCE: Next is Jason Lockhart, and
20 after Jason is Nicholas Johnson. Is Jason Lockhart
21 here? He is signed up for public comments.

22 MR. NICHOLAS JOHNSON: Anyway, Webster
23 County is fascinating. It is one of the last
24 remaining glades of the Appalachians. It's a great

1 plan. You can see it if you go down this highway.
2 It's phenomenal, and I would hate to see this
3 pipeline go through here and affect that. But
4 that's beside the point. I am going to read my
5 comments that I have already written up, and I will
6 mail and spend 49 cents on mail so I can support my
7 local post office.

8 To whom it may concern of the DEP. I
9 am deeply disturbed by the intention of certain
10 parties wishing to construct infrastructure that has
11 the potential to cause harm to the Appalachian rain
12 forest. To the degree that my generation and any
13 generation would possibly know me or those who might
14 have had some form of contact, either directly or
15 indirectly, in other words, the damage possible if
16 brought to fruition would last for centuries.
17 Perhaps you all of the bureaucracy for the
18 environment have your own private little slices of
19 almost heaven, and therefore you fear not the
20 destruction of your home. Some of us Appalachians
21 have more concern for the lives and land of our
22 brothers and sisters.

23 Consider this a formal written comment
24 opposing the Mountain Valley Pipeline and all other

1 fossil fuel infrastructure considered for the
2 regional officially and unofficially accepted as the
3 Appalachians. Sincerely, Nicholas Johnson.

4 P.S., here's a suggestion: the
5 Department of Environmental Protection should move
6 to enshrine the Appalachians as a sacred ecosystem,
7 and as such, should work to minimize detrimental
8 industrial practices. On the scale that
9 industrialism takes place, the balance of natural
10 life is affected generally for the worse. Of
11 course, you all knew that, right?

12 That's my comment.

13 MR. GLANCE: Jason Lockhart signed up. Is
14 he here? That was the last person who signed up.
15 In the meantime, I urge everyone to talk with the
16 folks here. All right, Gary Weir.

17 MR. GARY WEIR: I just wanted to say that
18 basically I am in favor of the project. It could
19 bring some money to the county, which is much
20 needed. I do want to make sure that during the
21 construction phase that the water in particular and
22 the land and the roads are taken care of and that
23 things aren't damaged. But I can trust that the DEP
24 and other agencies will be looking after that, and I

1 guess that's it.

2 MS. CHARLENE GROUNDS: My opinion is, I
3 would be for the pipeline personally if our county
4 benefitted from it. If it provided more than a
5 very, very small percentage of jobs for our people
6 in the county, and as well as the state. I hear the
7 pipeline brings in a whole lot of their own
8 employees. I think they should maybe hire a little
9 more people in West Virginia because we are a state
10 that needs jobs. I realize they have to bring in
11 some just for experience, and people are very
12 concerned about the eminent domain thing that maybe
13 they will have their property taken away, and they
14 don't want it. So, that's all I have to say.

15 MR. GLANCE: Is there anybody else that
16 wants to speak, any other public comments? This
17 concludes this hearing on the permits for the
18 Mountain Valley Pipeline project. The public
19 comment period for these permits ends at 8:00 p.m.,
20 on March 19th. You can submit any comments via e-
21 mail at DEP.comments@wv.gov. Thank you for coming
22 out. Have a safe drive home.

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CONCLUDED AT 7:00 P.M.

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,
COUNTY OF KANAWHA, to wit:

I, Donna H. Miller, Notary Public in and for the State of West Virginia, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing was duly taken by and before me, under the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure, at the time and place and for the purpose specified in the caption thereof.

I do certify that the said hearing was correctly taken by me by means of the stenomask; that the same was transcribed by me, and that the said transcript is a true record of proceedings had.

I further certify that I am not connected by blood or marriage with any of the parties to this action, am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel, or financially interested in the action, or interested, directly or indirectly, in the matter in controversy.

Given under my hand this 10th day of
March, 2017.

Donna H. Miller
Notary Public

My commission expires October 1, 2023.