

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas Branch 3
Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC
Docket No. PF15-3-000

July 21, 2015
Michael Hicks, Chief
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 455
Cherokee, NC 28719

Re: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project

Dear Chief Hicks:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) invites the participation of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in its review of the Mountain Valley Pipeline Project in West Virginia and Virginia, planned by Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC (Mountain Valley). Mountain Valley proposes to construct and operate about 294 miles of new 42-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline crossing portions of Wetzell, Harrison, Doddridge, Lewis, Braxton, Webster Nicholas, Greenbrier, Fayette, Summers, and Monroe Counties, West Virginia, and Giles, Montgomery, Roanoke, Franklin, and Pittsylvania Counties, Virginia. On October 31, 2014, the FERC approved Mountain Valley's request to initiate the Commission's pre-filing process, which enables review of the project to begin before an application is filed with the FERC. The purpose of the pre-filing process is to seek public and agency input early in the project planning phase and encourage involvement by interested stakeholders in a manner that allows for the early identification and resolution of environmental issues.

You should have received notification of the project when the FERC issued a *Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Planned Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, Request for Comments on Environmental Issues, and Notice of Public Scoping Meetings* (NOI) on April 17, 2015. The NOI included a brief description of the project and the Commission's decision-making process. It was published in the *Federal Register*, sent to various Indian tribes, and placed in the Commission's public record under docket number PF15-3-000.¹

You may have also been contacted about the project by Mountain Valley or their environmental consultant (Tetra Tech). Although the company does not represent the FERC, they can assist us in completing the process of complying with section 106 of the

¹ Project information is available on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on "General Search" and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., PF14-12). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

National Historic Preservation Act by gathering information, in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800.2(a)(3).

We are interested in receiving your comments on the project to ensure that the concerns of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are identified and properly considered in our environmental analysis. We also request your assistance in identifying properties of traditional, religious, or cultural importance to the tribe that may be affected by the proposed project.

You may file a response either electronically or with a paper copy; however, with either method please reference the project docket number (PF15-3-000) with your submission. If you choose the internet, use the eFiling feature on the FERC's web page at www.ferc.gov under the "Documents & Filings" link. To file a paper copy, send a letter addressed to: Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; 888 First Street NE, Washington DC 20426.

Please be assured that we will keep any sensitive cultural information strictly confidential. If you file sensitive tribal information it should be marked "Contains Privileged Information - Do Not Release."

We would very much appreciate receiving your response within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you would like to discuss our process, get further information, or meet with Commission staff, please feel free to contact Paul Friedman, the FERC's Environmental Project Manager, at 202-502-8059 or paul.friedman@ferc.gov.

The Commission welcomes your participation in our environmental review process for the project.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Turpin, Director,
Division of Gas-Environment
& Engineering

cc: Public File, Docket No. PF15-3-000

Russell Townsend, THPO
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