

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

In Reply Refer To:
OEP/DG2E/Gas 3
Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC
Docket No. CP16-10-000

March 1, 2018

Matthew Eggerding, Counsel
Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC
625 Liberty Ave., Suite 1700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Re: Notice to Proceed with Tree Clearing Within the Jefferson National Forest

Dear Mr. Eggerding:

I grant your February 28, 2018 request (Request for Notice to Proceed No. 12), for Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC (Mountain Valley) to commence with the hand-felling of trees within your authorized right-of-way through the Jefferson National Forest, in discontinuous segments along your pipeline route between about mileposts (MP) 196.4 and 221.1, and at 5 additional temporary workspaces and 2 access roads, in Giles and Montgomery Counties, Virginia, listed on Attachment A of your request. In considering this notice to proceed, we have reviewed your Implementation Plan, filed on October 31, 2017, and its supplements. The Implementation Plan and your supplements included the information necessary to meet the conditions of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) October 13, 2017 *Order Issuing Certificates and Granting Abandonment Authority* (Order) in the above-referenced docket governing commencement of tree-clearing activities.

Specifically, we have determined that Mountain Valley has satisfied Environmental Condition 9 and applicable Conditions 12 through 33 in Appendix C of the Order. Condition 15 is satisfied by the execution of a Programmatic Agreement for the Mountain Valley Project, in December 2017. Condition 28 is satisfied by the Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior (USDOI) Fish and Wildlife Service in November 2017. The Director of FERC's Office of Energy Projects and Commission staff have reviewed and approved applicable plans, as required by Environmental Conditions 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24 of the Order. In addition, Mountain Valley has documented in Attachment B of its February 28, 2018 request that the USDOI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has authorized the removal of trees within the Jefferson National Forest.

You may **not** cut any trees within 300 feet of each side of the pipeline crossing of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST), between about MPs 196.29 and 196.39 as stated in the BLM's February 19, 2018 notice to proceed with clearing, and in accordance with Mountain Valley's ANST bore and crossing plan. You may **not** conduct other construction activities, including pipeline installation, within the Jefferson National Forest until after Mountain Valley documents it has permission for those activities from the BLM. In addition, Mountain Valley must adhere to the conditions outlined in the BLM's notice to proceed with tree clearing, including avoidance of impacts on archaeological site 44GS241.

This letter does **not** authorize any construction activities anywhere else within the project area, that was not previously authorized in letters from the FERC issued on January 21 and 29, and February 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 21, and 22, 2018. I remind you that Mountain Valley must comply with all applicable remaining terms and conditions of the Order.

Sincerely,



Paul Friedman
Environmental Project Manager

cc: Public File, Docket No. CP16-10-000

Document Content(s)

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