

**ASSOCIATED  
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**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20426**

January 20, 2016

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**  
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
10 Franklin Rd, S.E.  
Suite 540  
Roanoke, VA 24011

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

Thank you for your December 7, 2015, letter forwarding the concerns of your constituents, the Mill Mountain Garden Club and the Roanoke Valley Garden Club, regarding Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC's (ACP) proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline Project (Docket No. CP15-554-000) and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC's Mountain Valley Pipeline Project (Docket No. CP16-10-000).

The Commission does not direct the development of the gas industry's infrastructure, either on a broad regional basis or in the design of specific projects. Nor does the Commission engage in regional planning exercises that would result in the selection of one project over another. Accordingly, Commission staff has determined that it would not be appropriate to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement for proposed gas infrastructure projects in Virginia.

Please note, however, that project-specific environmental impact statements for each project will be prepared and issued for public comment. Those environmental impact statements will analyze both the impacts of the respective projects and the cumulative impacts of other actions affecting the environment in the region. The Commission will consider the findings of these environmental documents, as well as a host of other non-environmental issues such as rates, tariffs, and market needs, before making decisions on whether to authorize each project.

Regarding the requested agency stipulations within the resolutions, Commission staff will consider all comments provided by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in its analysis of the projects, including an assessment of impacts on water resources, soils, geology, wildlife, and sensitive species. Note that the DEQ may also have to assess the projects' impacts on resources under its jurisdiction when considering any necessary DEQ permits. Therefore, any inquiries related to the DEQ's processes are best directed to the DEQ.

As in any Commission matter, please be assured that we strive to make our review of proposals accessible and transparent to the public. If I can be of further assistance in this matter, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Norman C. Bay  
Chairman

Document Content(s)

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