



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

GREGORY D. HABEEB
POST OFFICE BOX 882
SALEM, VIRGINIA 24153

EIGHTH DISTRICT

June 14, 2017

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COURTS OF JUSTICE
TRANSPORTATION
COMMERCE AND LABOR
RULES

VIA EMAIL: david.paylor@deq.virginia.gov

Mr. David K. Paylor
Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
P. O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218

Re: Mountain Valley Pipeline – VDEQ Public Meetings

Dear Director Paylor:

As you know, we represent citizens throughout the Roanoke and New River Valleys, many of whom have very serious concerns about the Mountain Valley Pipeline. We will not reiterate those concerns here but rest assured the issues presented by the Mountain Valley Pipeline are of utmost concern to the citizens of Craig County, Giles County, Montgomery County and Roanoke County, regardless of whether or not they are directly impacted by the proposed route.

Accordingly, our constituents have taken some small comfort in knowing that the VDEQ, pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), was going to perform an individual analysis of every stream and water crossing in fulfilling its obligation to determine the impact on water quality and other environmental consequences. We are sure you can appreciate the shock and disappointment when it was learned that the VDEQ was in fact not going to perform such a review but was instead going to defer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its work pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA.

Because of this significant change in the role the VDEQ intends to play with respect to this pipeline, we believe it is only appropriate that the VDEQ hold public meetings in the affected jurisdictions to hear from our constituents and to provide them with some level of comfort that our crucial water and other natural resources are not at risk. Without such public dialogue, it would seem impossible for the VDEQ to fulfill its mission to “protect and enhance Virginia’s environment.”

On behalf of our constituents, we appreciate the work you and the VDEQ do but we are very concerned and troubled by the sudden change with respect to the VDEQ and the Mountain Valley Pipeline. We hope you will accept our request for public meetings and will work with our offices to schedule such meetings in the very near future.

Thank you.

Gregory D. Habeeb
Delegate
Eighth District

Joseph R. Yost
Delegate
Twelfth District