

The Recorder

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Water control board starts process of revoking MVP permit

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RICHMOND — The State Water Control Board, which had issued the Mountain Valley Pipeline a permit a year ago, met this morning and voted to reconsider that certification.

The MVP's nationwide permit was revoked months ago, but Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality did not take action to shut down pipeline construction.

“The State Water Control Board has voted to start a process through which the water quality certification for the MVP may be revoked,” said David Sligh of Wild Virginia. “From the start, it was clear that this destructive project cannot be built in a way that is protective of Virginia's waters. MVP's record of causing harm to people and streams shows that citizens concerns were valid and that DEQ's assurances were worthless. Now, Gov. Northam must order DEQ to use its authority to stop work until the board can act. Recent DEQ statements that the kinds of imminent harm necessary to justify stopping construction are absurd. Yet again DEQ is dragging its feet, having to be forced to do its job.

“We thank the board members who have taken their duties seriously and looked out for the public interest,” Sligh said.

Virginia filed a lawsuit last Friday against Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC.

Attorney General Mark Herring and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality sued for repeated environmental violations in Craig, Franklin, Giles, Montgomery, and Roanoke counties, particularly violations that occurred during significant rain events over the last year, according to a release issued by Herring.

The suit alleges MVP violated Virginia's environmental laws and regulations as well as MVP's Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification by failing to control sediment and stormwater runoff resulting in impacts to waterways and roads.

“The suit seeks the maximum allowable civil penalties and a court order to force MVP to comply with environmental laws and regulations. The matter was referred to the Office of Attorney General by the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality after numerous inspections identified violations at multiple construction sites,” the AG said.