

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY, VIRGINIA HELD ON THE 12th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014 AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE BOARD CHAMBERS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, 755 ROANOKE STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

R-FY-15-43
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF
THE COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY VIRGINIA
OPPOSING THE MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

On a motion by Christopher A. Tuck, seconded by M. Todd King and carried,

WHEREAS, EQT Corporation, in a joint venture with NextEra Energy Resources, created Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (“Mountain Valley Pipeline”) for the purpose of constructing and operating a 300 mile long 42 inch diameter natural gas transmission pipeline between Wetzel, West Virginia (Marcellus and Utica production regions) and Pittsylvania County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Valley Pipeline has initiated the Federal regulatory approval process to construct the pipeline by requesting use of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (“FERC”) pre-filing review process with the pre-filing of Docket No. PF 15-3-00; and

WHEREAS, Mountain Valley Pipeline has advised FERC in its pre-filing application that Mountain Valley Pipeline’s current proposed route parallels the existing 138 kV AEP Glyn Lynn Hancock power line that traverses through Montgomery County starting at the Giles County border with the George Washington Jefferson National Forest heading southeast through Montgomery County to the Roanoke County border near Interstate 81; and

WHEREAS, The current proposed route through Montgomery County will have an adverse impact on a large number of developed residences in the highly developed subdivisions of Brush Mountain Estates and Preston Forest, and on scenic, recreational, and sensitive environmental areas in the County of Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, It appears there are several residences in the Brush Mountain Estates and Preston Forest Subdivisions that will have the pipeline either come through their property or closely adjoin their property which will have a negative impact on property values, place their drinking well water at risk and unnecessarily place these residents living in Brush Mountain Estates and Preston Forest at increased risk of life or property loss should an incident occur with the pipeline; and

WHEREAS, The proposed route of the pipeline should be moved away from the residences of Brush Mountain Estates and Preston Forest in order to avoid the potential for catastrophic loss of both property and life should a pipeline incident occur; and

WHEREAS, There are several federal and/or state endangered species with habitats located within a three mile radius of the proposed pipeline route which would be harmed, not only should an incident occur with the pipeline but also during construction and maintenance of the pipeline and when herbicides and pesticides are applied to keep the right of way clear; and

WHEREAS, A large portion of the topography, where the pipeline route is proposed through Montgomery County, is characterized by karst terrain, sink holes and caves. The construction of the pipeline through karst topography puts the groundwater and surface water resources at greater risk of contamination/pollution and puts the pipeline at greater risk, after construction, of an incident occurring due to subsidence or other earth movement as a result of dissolving bedrock; and

WHEREAS, The proposed pipeline route bisects two major fault lines located in Montgomery County which causes concern regarding the increased potential for a pipeline incident should the earth shift due to seismological activity; and

WHEREAS, There are two Agricultural Forrestral Districts ("AFD"), AFD#2 located in Catawba and AFD #9 located in Elliston/Pedlar Hills areas of Montgomery County that would be bisected by the proposed route of the pipeline. The construction and ongoing maintenance of the pipeline and the use of herbicides and pesticides to keep the rights-of-way clear will negatively impact the forestal and agricultural uses in these AFDs and conflict with the purpose of putting land in an AFD, namely to conserve and protect these lands as valued natural and ecological resources, which provide clean air sheds, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, aesthetic quality and other environmental purposes for the citizens of Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, There are two impacted waterways in Montgomery County, the North Fork of the Roanoke River and Craig's Creek that flow within the proposed pipeline route. The construction and ongoing maintenance of the pipeline and the use of herbicides and pesticides to keep the right-of-way clear will likely lead to contamination/pollution of these two streams, further degrading these waters; and

WHEREAS, The construction of the proposed pipeline and the resulting permanent clearance of a seventy-five foot (75') wide right-of-way located through much of the most scenic, mountainous and rugged terrain in the County of Montgomery creates an adverse impact on one of the County's most valued resources, its beautiful viewshed; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors opposes the route of the Mountain Valley Gas Pipeline as proposed through the County of Montgomery, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, If Mountain Valley Pipeline were to reroute the proposed gas pipeline away from the residential communities to areas that are unpopulated not containing residences the Board of Supervisors may reconsider opposing the construction of the pipeline.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia that the Board of Supervisors hereby opposes the proposed route of the Mountain Valley Gas Pipeline that is included in Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC's pre-filing request Docket No. PF-15-3-00 with FERC because of the proposed route's adverse impacts on developed residences in the Brush Mountain Estates and Preston Forest Subdivisions within the proposed corridor and on the scenic, recreational and sensitive environmental areas in Montgomery County and that these adverse impacts to the County of Montgomery far outweigh any economic benefit the County might receive from the construction of the pipeline.

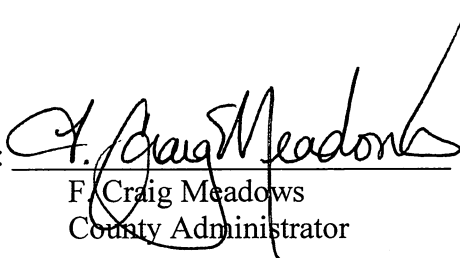
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia, requests that FERC closely look at whether the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline is needed in light of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that is likewise proposed to transport gas from the same Marcellus and Utica production regions as the Mountain Valley Pipeline with a similar planned terminus in the Mid-Atlantic region;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Montgomery, Virginia hereby directs the County Administrator to transmit this Resolution to FERC for inclusion in pre-filing Docket Number PF-15-3-00.

The vote on the forgoing resolution was as follows:

<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
M. Todd King	Gary D. Creed	Matthew R. Gabriele
Mary W. Biggs		
Annette S. Perkins		
Christopher A. Tuck		
William H. Brown		

ATTEST:


F. Craig Meadows
County Administrator